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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

*Born 1819;*

*Ascended the throne 1837.*

*Died 1901.*

Royal Prize Books.

# ROYAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

*WITH SIXTY-TWO ILLUSTRATIONS*

THOMAS NELSON AND SONS

*London, Edinburgh, and New York*

1891

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*Barid baran hukayi.  
10 Kago Rose, Calcutta.*

## ROYAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

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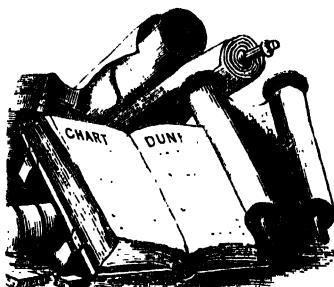
### WHAT IS HISTORY?

HISTORY tells us about the past. Old papers and books contain stories of how people lived and of what took place in the land in former times. These stories about a country and its people form its history.

English history describes what has taken place in England. We are told of the time, long, long ago, when there were no proper houses in the land, no schools, no churches, no shops, no markets, no towns, no roads, and few people.

In those days the land was covered with great forests, in which wild beasts made their homes. Many of the people were of a savage race, and spent much of their time in hunting and fighting.

All this has changed. The houses, the dresses, the language, the religion, the ways of the people and the work they do, are now different from what they were in far-off times.



History tells us how England has become what it is to-day. We learn how houses, schools, and churches were built, and how men began to live in cities. We learn how a great many things were found out which make us happier and more comfortable than the people who lived long, long ago.

We are told about the Kings and Queens who have ruled over our country. Some of them were good and wise, and did much to improve the condition of the people; some were wicked and selfish, and did much harm.

History tells us about our great men: how our statesmen made laws, and how our soldiers defended the land from enemies; how our sailors found their way across the ocean; how our travellers braved great dangers in far-off lands; how our authors wrote books; and how our preachers spread the gospel of Christ.

## THE STORY OF A GREAT NATION.

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THE British Islands consist of a group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of Europe. The two largest of these islands are Great Britain and Ireland.

They consist of four countries. The island of Great Britain contains three of these countries—England and Wales in the south, and Scotland in the north. The fourth country is the island of Ireland.

At the present time the British Islands form one kingdom, under one sovereign—Queen Victoria; but long ago each country had rulers of its own.

When there were no towns, and the people wandered about in the woods and forests, a number of families formed a tribe. The wisest, bravest, or strongest man in each tribe ruled over the rest. He was their leader or chief.

At length one chief conquered the others, and made them own him as the head chief or ruler. In time he got all the power into his own hands, and became King. The first King of England was Egbert, in 827.

England, then called Britain, was conquered first by the Romans, then by the English, next by the Danes, and last of all

by the Normans. The Romans remained about four hundred years, and then returned to their own country. The English, Danes, and Normans settled in the land with all that were left of the Britons. In the course of time they mingled together, and now form the present English race.

X Ireland was conquered by England in the reign of Henry the Second, who called his son John Lord of Ireland. Henry the Eighth took the title of King of Ireland.

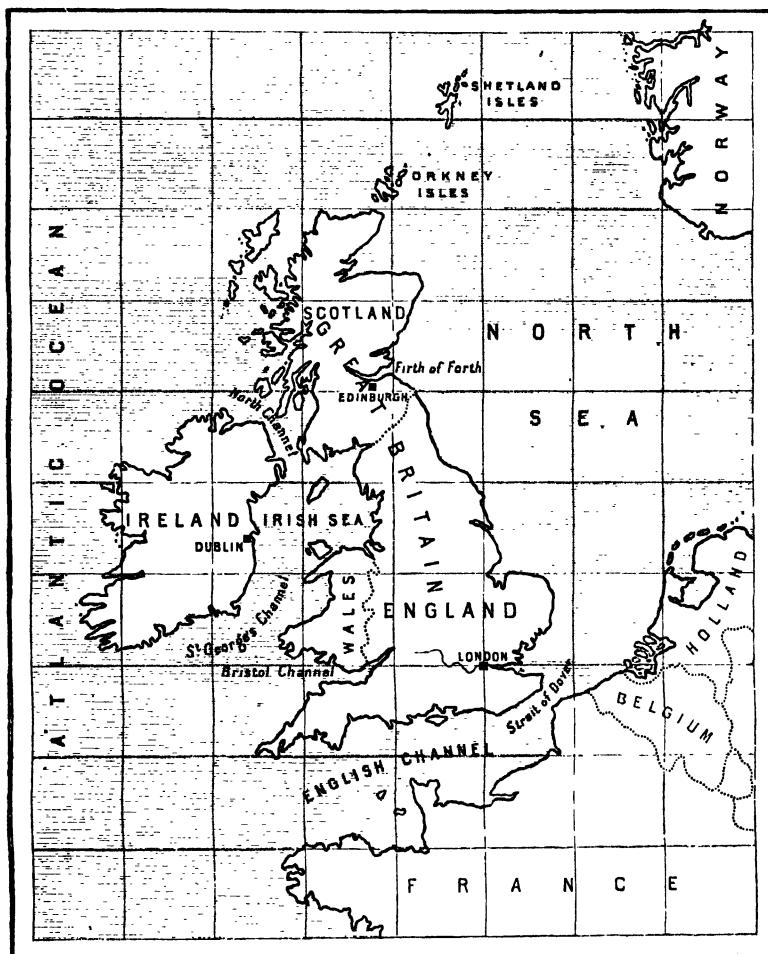
Wales was conquered by the English in the reign of Edward the First. After much fighting the Welsh Prince was slain, and Edward called his infant son the Prince of Wales. The eldest son of the British sovereign still bears this title.

Edward the First tried hard to conquer Scotland, but failed. The daughter of Henry the Seventh married the King of Scotland in 1503. In 1603, on the death of Elizabeth, Queen of England, the English branch of the royal family came to an end.

Then James the Sixth of Scotland, the great-grandson of Henry the Seventh's daughter, became the first King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. X

But this is not all. Our Queen not only rules over the British Islands, but she is also the ruler over other lands far larger. She is Queen of the greatest empire in the earth. Millions of her subjects have their homes in Asia, Africa, Australia, and America.

British history begins with an account of the doings of half-savage tribes in a corner of Britain. It shows how the island



(Each Square is 100 Miles.)

**THE BRITISH ISLANDS.**  
**(THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.)**

has become the home of a great nation, and how the British Empire has now grown to be the largest and most powerful in the world.

## TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

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THE history of our country begins with the name of a great Roman general, who came to Britain about two thousand years ago—that is, fifty-five years before the birth of Christ.

His name was Julius Cæsar, and we have to thank him for nearly all we know of those early days. Before he came to Britain there was no one in the land to write about the country or its people.

Cæsar tells us that two thousand years ago our island was almost covered with dark forests, in which there lived wolves, bears, deer, and many other wild animals. Here and there, where some of the trees had been cut down, the people had built their huts. In the southern part of the island farming was carried on, corn was grown, and cattle were reared.

The people were called Britons. They were divided into tribes, each of which had its own chief or ruler. These tribes were often at war with each other; but when an enemy invaded the land, they gave up fighting among themselves and joined together under one leader.

Their weapons were bows and arrows, spears and clubs.



JULIUS CÆSAR.

They fastened long scythes to the wheels of their chariots to cut down their enemies as they rushed over the field of battle.

The houses in which they dwelt were mere huts, made of rods tied together into the shape of a beehive or a sugar-loaf, and covered with mud or turf. They sometimes built a great many of these huts near each other, so as to form a kind of town. In order to keep off the wild animals, of which there were so many in the woods, they dug a ditch and raised a fence of sharp stakes around it.

The chief food of the Britons was wild fruits, acorns, and roots which they gathered in the woods, and the flesh of the animals they obtained by hunting and fishing. In the south, the people had also bread, butter, and mead.

Some of the Britons wore little clothing, but those who were less savage covered themselves with pieces of cloth or the skins of animals. In the south better and gayer dresses were seen, and gold, silver, and bronze chains were worn on the arms and neck.

How was it, think you, that the Britons of the south were so much better off than the rest of their countrymen? Because they had something which the people of other lands needed.

They had rich tin mines, and the merchants of other countries came in small ships to buy the tin. Instead of money, they gave the Britons such useful articles as salt, earthenware, and cloth. They also taught them how to build better houses, make better clothing, and prepare better food.

The Britons had never heard about the true God. Their gods were the sun, the moon, the stars, and other things. Their priests, who were called Druids, wore white robes, and lived in groves of oak trees. They had great power over the people, for they were not only the priests, but also the judges, the teachers, and the doctors of the land.



## THE COMING OF THE ROMANS.

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WE have seen that to Julius Cæsar we owe our first knowledge of the land we live in ; let us now ask why he visited our island.

The Romans were the greatest soldiers of their time. They had conquered Gaul or France, which lies on the other side of the English Channel from Britain. When Julius Cæsar was at the head of the Roman army in Gaul, he heard about Britain, and he made up his mind to bring his soldiers across the sea and conquer the island. This was fifty-five years before the birth of Christ.

In the August of that year, Cæsar crossed the Strait of Dover with a great many ships full of soldiers. He found the shores of Britain covered with armed men ; but his soldiers, who were well trained and better armed, soon drove them back, and obtained a footing on the island. The Romans at that time remained only a few days in Britain, and then returned to Gaul.

Next year Cæsar came back with a large army. This time the Britons did not try to prevent the landing of the Romans, but gathered a large army farther inland. Several battles were fought, in which the Britons were defeated. After this, Cæsar



THE LANDING OF THE ROMANS.

made peace with them and left Britain. But the Britons had to pay a sum of money every year to the Romans.

The Romans did not return to Britain for nearly one

hundred years. Forty-three years after the birth of Christ, Claudius, who was then Emperor of Rome, sent a large army to this country. Much fighting took place, and the Romans at length became masters of the greater part of the island. Britain was then made a part of the Roman Empire.

One of the bravest of the British chiefs was Caractacus, or Caradoc, who held out for a time against the invaders. At length he was defeated, and sent to Rome in chains. The Emperor Claudius was so pleased with his noble bearing that he gave him his freedom.

Boadicea was the Queen of a people who lived in that part of England which is now called Norfolk and Suffolk. When her husband died the Romans took all her property and treated her and her daughters very cruelly.

In revenge, she gathered a large army, and marched on the towns which the Romans had built. These were destroyed, and more than seventy thousand Romans were put to death. The Roman governor then marched against the Britons, and defeated them. To avoid being taken prisoner, Boadicea killed herself.

## BRITAIN UNDER THE ROMANS.

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THE struggle between the Romans and the Britons continued for nearly forty years. Till the year 78 A.D., the Romans were masters of a part only of Britain. In that year Julius Agricola became governor of the country.

He was a wise man and a good soldier. He not only knew how to conquer the country, but also how to keep what he had conquered. He went farther north than any of the other Roman generals had done, and fought a great battle in Caledonia or Scotland, at the foot of the Grampian Hills.

Having defeated the Caledonians, Agricola built a line of forts across the island from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde. He did this to defend the part he had conquered from the warlike tribes of the north.

Some time after this another governor built a wall joining all the forts together. When the Romans were unable to hold this line of forts, another wall was built farther south. It stretched from the mouth of the Tyne to the Solway Firth.

Shortly after the Romans came to Britain, the Christian religion had begun to spread over the world. Some of the

Romans who settled in Britain were Christians, and they taught the Britons about Christ.

The Emperor of Rome, wishing to put down the new religion, caused many of those who believed in it to be put to death. Among these was a Briton named Alban, and the place where he suffered is still called St. Albans, in memory of the martyr.

The coming of the Romans had been the cause of great trouble to the Britons, but in the end they gained more than they had lost. When the Romans conquered a country, they taught the people what they themselves knew.

They found the Britons with very little knowledge of anything except hunting and fighting. They taught them how to build comfortable houses, how to make better clothing, how to till the fields, and how to rear cattle. They also made roads and built cities in all parts of the land.

The Romans were masters of Britain for nearly four hundred years. At length they became too weak to continue their rule over all the countries that they had conquered. Other nations had been growing in power, and now made an attack on the city of Rome.

To defend Rome from these invaders, Roman soldiers were gathered in from all quarters. In 410 A.D. the last of the Romans left Britain, and the Britons had not only to rule themselves, but also to defend their island against foreign foes.



## THE COMING OF THE ENGLISH.

YOU will remember that the Romans built walls across the island to keep back the wild tribes who lived in the north. When the Romans had gone away, these tribes, who were called

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Picts and Scots, marched southward against the Britons, killing the people and carrying off their cattle.

The Romans had fought the battles of the Britons for so many years that now they were unable to defend themselves. Twice the Britons sent to Rome for help, and Roman soldiers came and drove back their enemies. At last the Romans told the Britons that they could not come again.

At this time tribes of sea-rovers, whose homes were in the countries on the other side of the North Sea, were attacking the Britons in the south. One of the British Kings asked two of the chiefs of the sea-rovers—Hengist and Horsa—to help him against the Picts and Scots. He said that he would give the sea-rovers land in payment for their services.

The sea-rovers, under Hengist and Horsa, defeated the Picts and Scots, and drove them back into their own part of the island. They then seized Kent for themselves, and invited others of their friends to share the land with them.

For many years large numbers of these people came from the other side of the North Sea, until they became strong enough to occupy the whole of the southern part of the country.

These invaders were not all of one tribe. Some of them were Saxons, some Jutes, and some Angles. The Angles seem to have been the most powerful, and from them South Britain came to be called England, which means the “land of the Angles.”

The Romans had conquered Britain to rule over it. The



A NORSE GALLEY.

English tribes—Jutes, Saxons, and Angles—wanted the land to settle in and make it their home. Battles were fought, thousands of the Britons were killed, while many were kept as slaves. Others fled into the hilly parts of the country, where their enemies could not easily follow them.

The English called the ancient Britons Welsh, which means “strangers,” and the part of the land into which they were driven is called Wales to this day. Many of the Britons, however, took refuge in the hills of Cornwall.

## OLD ENGLISH KINGDOMS.

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THE English invaders were not all of one tribe, and they did not all come to Britain at the same time. Each tribe had its own chief or ruler. At one time or another seven different kingdoms were formed, each having its own King. Three of these—Sussex, Wessex, and Essex—were founded by the Saxons, and Kent was founded by the Jutes.

The Angles, who were the most powerful tribe, got the largest share of the land ; and, as we have seen, from them the whole country received its name. They founded the kingdoms of Anglia, Mercia, and Northumbria.

The English were heathens, just as the Britons had been when the Romans came. It was the Romans who first taught the Britons about Christ. Long after the Romans had left Britain, a priest named Gregory saw some English slave-boys for sale in the Roman market.

When Gregory became Pope—that is, the head of the Christian Church at that time—he remembered the slave-boys he had seen, and he sent a preacher named Augustine to teach the English and to try to make them Christians.

Augustine began his work in Kent in 597, as the Queen of

that part of the country was already a Christian. Before long the King was also converted. As he was the most powerful ruler in England at the time, many of the people followed his example. A church was built at Canterbury, in Kent, and this city has ever since been the seat of the chief church in England.



AUGUSTINE PREACHING TO THE SAXONS.

Though the Kings of the Old English kingdoms were very often at war with each other, there was generally one of them who was more powerful than the rest. He was called Bretwalda, or Over-lord. Most of the fighting that went on in the land was for the purpose of settling which King should be over-lord.

## OLD ENGLISH KINGS BEFORE ALFRED.

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WHEN Egbert, the King of the West Saxons, was Over-lord of all England, he called himself the "King of the English." He was King of Wessex for twenty-six years before he got the whole of the country into his hands. His reign continued for ten years longer, till 836, in which year he died.

The Danes were of the same race as the English. They also came from the other side of the North Sea. Their country lay to the north of the old country of the English. A little before the time of Egbert they began to make attacks on England, as the Saxons had done in the time of the Britons.

The swift ships of these bold sea-rovers, bearing the flag of the Black Raven, became the terror of every bay and river-mouth on the coast.

At first they only tried to rob the towns and villages near the coast, but as time went on they grew bolder, and pushed their way farther inland. At last they became masters of much of the north and east of England. But soon after, Egbert gained a great victory over them, and this put a stop for a while to their inroads.

After the death of Egbert, his son Ethelwulf became King,<sup>4</sup> and after Ethelwulf his four sons—Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred the First, and Alfred—succeeded one another. Their chief work was fighting against the Danes.

In the reign of Ethelred, the Danes tried to make themselves masters of the whole country. They took East Anglia, and made Edmund, its King, prisoner.

The Danes had not become Christians like the English, and when they had conquered East Anglia they offered to let Edmund continue to be King if he would promise to obey the Danish chief and give up the Christian religion.

Edmund refused to do this, and the Danish leader ordered him to be bound to a tree and shot to death with arrows. In later days a splendid abbey was built over his grave, and the town which grew up around it is still called Bury St. Edmunds, or St. Edmund's town.



## ALFRED THE GREAT.



THE four sons of Ethelwulf all became Kings of England. Alfred, the youngest of them, became one of the wisest and best Kings that ever sat on the English throne. He showed a great desire for learning while yet a boy.

In those days books were scarce, because they had to be written by the hand. This was done by monks, who made the pages of their written books look bright and gay with coloured letters and pictures.



ALFRED AND HIS MOTHER.

One day Alfred's mother showed one of these books to her sons, and told them that she would give the book to the one who first learned to read it. Alfred set about the task, and won the prize.

After this he read all the books he could get, and with his own hand turned Latin books into English, that others who could not read Latin might have books to read.



ALFRED IN THE SWINE-HERD'S COTTAGE. 17222

It was during the reign of Alfred's brother Ethelred that the Danes had put Edmund, the King of East Anglia, to death. No sooner was Alfred on the throne than they tried to obtain greater power.



ALFRED IN THE DANISH CAMP.

Alfred was at first able to hold his own, till an attack made upon him when he was not prepared scattered his followers, and he was forced to hide himself for a time.

Dressed like a countryman, Alfred lived for a time, among

the marshes of Somerset, with an old servant who was a swine-herd. The herd's wife, who knew him only as her husband's servant, bade him watch some cakes which were baking on the hearth. Lost in thought, the King allowed the cakes to burn.

For this he was scolded by the woman, who told him that he would no doubt eat them fast enough. She was more than surprised when she afterwards found that she had scolded her King. Alfred lived in the herd's cottage till he had received news of a victory which his people had gained over the enemy. He then left his hiding-place, and called his friends together.

In order to find out how the Danes were placed, and what were their plans, the King dressed himself as a harper, and paid a visit to their camp. The soldiers made him welcome, and he sang and played before their chief. Having found out the plans of the Danes, he made his way back to his followers.

Next day the Danes marched to attack the English, thinking to take them by surprise; but Alfred was ready to receive them, and the battle ended in the defeat of the Danes. Their leader, Guthrum, agreed to become a Christian, and the Danes who remained in England said they would obey Alfred.

Alfred not only saved his country from the Danes, but he did much for the comfort and welfare of his subjects. He wrote books and built schools, and also helped in the teaching of his people. He made good laws, and forced the people to keep them. He ruled the land for thirty years, and left it so much better than he found it that he won the title of Alfred the Great.

## OLD ENGLISH KINGS AFTER ALFRED.

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ALFRED was succeeded by his son, Edward the Elder. Edward found that the Danes still held several strong towns in the middle of the country. These he took, and so often defeated the Danes that his name became a terror to them.

Both the English and the Welsh looked upon him as their protector and over-lord. He was far more powerful than any English King had been, and was the first sovereign who took the title of King of all England. He was succeeded by his son Athelstan, in whose reign the Danes came again, and were joined by the Scots and Welsh. A great battle was fought, and Athelstan won a victory which forced the different races in the country to own and obey him as King.

Athelstan was not only a great soldier, but a good ruler. He did much to improve the laws and trade of the country. He was succeeded by his half-brother Edmund, who was only eighteen years of age when he began to reign. He checked his enemies by the boldness and quickness of his marches. Malcolm, King of Scotland, assisted him against the Danes.

In the reign of Edmund a great man called Dunstan, who

Was the Abbot of Glastonbury, in Somerset, was of great service in the ruling of the kingdom. Edmund was murdered by a robber whom he had at one time sent out of the country.

Edred, the brother of Edmund, was the next King. Under his rule the whole country became still more united. He was greatly guided by the advice of Dunstan.

Edred was succeeded by his nephew Edwy, who was called the Fair. He quarrelled with Dunstan, and sent him out of the country. The people did not like Edwy, for he was not a good King. His half-brother Edgar was chosen to rule over the land north of the Thames. Edgar brought Dunstan back, and made him Bishop of London. On the death of Edwy, Edgar became King of the whole country.

Edgar was one of the most powerful of the Old English Kings. During his reign the country was so free from war that he was called Edgar the Peaceable. Dunstan, who had been made Archbishop of Canterbury, helped the King to govern the land.

There were still lesser Kings in the country, but they were all subject to Edgar. It is said that his barge was once rowed on the river Dee by eight Kings who ruled over different parts of the land. Edgar died in 975, and was succeeded by his son Edward, who was only a boy when he came to the throne. He was murdered by the order of his step-mother, who wished her own son Ethelred to be King. Edward had reigned only four years. He is called Edward the Martyr.

## OLD ENGLISH AND DANISH KINGS.

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E DWARD'S half-brother Ethelred now became King. He was called the Unready, because he had not the spirit and the bravery of the Old English Kings who had gone before him.

When the Danes came again, instead of fighting them, he offered them money to go away. They took the money, but they soon came back again for more. Others came with them, and the state of the country grew worse and worse.

When the King saw the mistake that he had made, he did a very foolish and a very wicked thing. He caused a great many of the Danes in different parts of the country to be murdered.

Among those who were put to death was a sister of Sweyn, King of Denmark. This King at once invaded England, in order to punish Ethelred for the murders that had taken place. Ethelred, who had married a Norman lady, fled to Normandy, in France, and Sweyn became King, but he was never crowned.

When the Danish King died, Ethelred returned, and was for a time successful ; but Canute, the son of Sweyn, had made

Up his mind to be King of England. While the struggle was going on between them, Ethelred died.

The son of Ethelred, who was called Edmund Ironside, fought bravely for his father's throne. After six months he gave up the country north of the Thames to the Danes. He was soon afterwards murdered, and Canute became King of England.

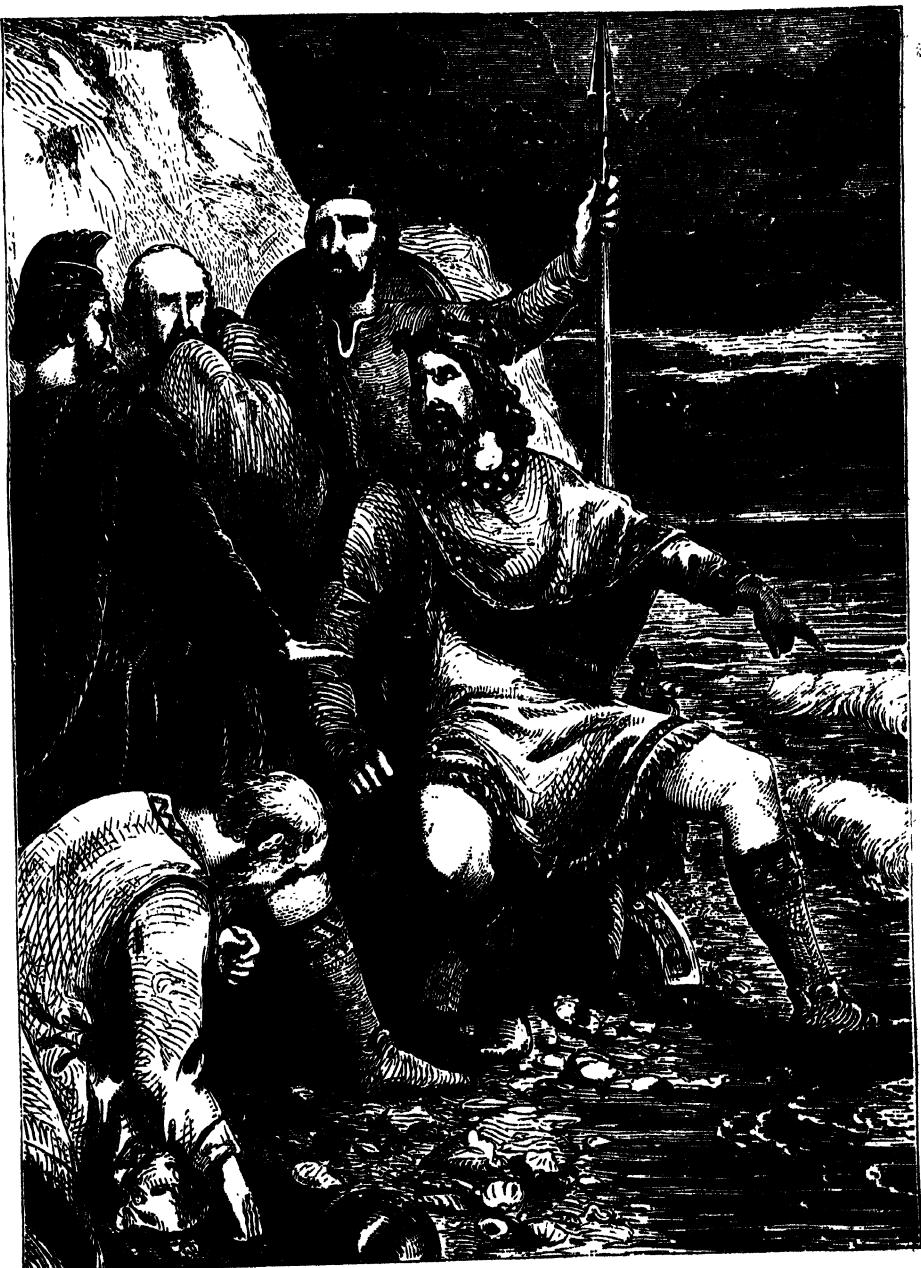
Though Canute was a Dane, he showed much wisdom by trying to make the English respect and trust him. To obtain their good-will, he sent as many of the Danes as he could spare back to their own country.

In 1028 Canute conquered Norway. He was now the ruler of three countries—England, Denmark, and Norway.

Canute once went as a pilgrim to Rome, and while there he wrote a long letter to his English subjects. "I have sent this letter before me," he said, "that all the people of my realm may rejoice in my well-doing; for, as you yourselves know, never have I spared, nor will I spare, to spend myself and my toil in what is needful and good for my people."

In flattery some of his people told him that he was the greatest King who had ever lived, and that even the waves of the sea would do his bidding.

He ordered his chair to be set on the shore when the tide was coming in. Then he commanded the waves to fall back; but they still rolled on, and began to flow around his feet. Canute thus showed his foolish followers that though a great



CANUTE AND HIS COURTIERS.

King he was only a man. The waves would obey no earthly King. He died in 1035, leaving three sons—Sweyn, Harold, and Hardicanute.

Harold, who from his swiftness in running was called Harefoot, succeeded Canute. His father had wished Hardicanute to be King of England; but Harold was too quick for him. The Witan, or meeting of the wise men, which was the Parliament of the time, divided the country between the brothers; but Harold died before his brother arrived from Denmark.

On arriving in England, Hardicanute became King. He had been brought up in England, and therefore the people hoped that he would be a good King like his father; but it turned out that he was a wicked and cruel man. He had no love for the English people, and when he again imposed the heavy tax called the Danegeld, they turned against him and rose in rebellion. He did nothing for the good of the country, and in 1042 died suddenly at a marriage-feast, where he had drunk too much. He reigned only two years, and was the last of the Danish Kings.

## THE LAST OLD ENGLISH KINGS.

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THE next King was Edward, called the Confessor because of the attention he paid to religion. He was one of the sons of Ethelred the Unready, who had fled to Normandy to be out of the reach of Canute. He was also half-brother of Hardicanute, for his mother Emma had married Canute after the death of her husband, Ethelred.

The people, tired of Danish rule, were so glad to see an Old English King again on the throne, that they allowed him to do almost as he pleased.

Edward had lived for twenty years in Normandy; and when he became King of England he did not forget those who had befriended him. They came to his court in great numbers. Some of them became his chief officers; and the French language began to be spoken by all who wished to obtain the favour of the King.

The most powerful Englishman at the time was Earl Godwin, whose daughter Edith the King had married. His greatness began in the reign of Canute, who had so trusted the English Earl that he left him in charge of England when he was away for some time on a visit to Rome.

Earl Godwin, with many of the chief Englishmen, found fault with Edward for showing so much favour to his Norman friends. A quarrel arose between Godwin and the King, and the Earl was driven out of the country.

While Godwin was away, William, Duke of Normandy, visited England. Edward, who had no children, promised to name the Norman Duke as his successor to the English throne.

At length Godwin was allowed to return to his native land, but he died shortly afterwards. His son Harold then became the leading nobleman in England. Once when shipwrecked on the coast of France, he fell into the power of Duke William, and was made to swear that he would help William to the English throne when Edward the Confessor died. Harold did not keep his word. During Edward's life he did his utmost to win the favour of the people; and when the King died in 1066, he ascended the throne.

When Duke William heard that Edward was dead, and that Harold had broken his promise and become King, he was very angry. At once he collected an army, and began to make ready to invade England. In the meantime the King of Norway and Harold's brother Tostig invaded the north of the country. Harold defeated them at Stamford Bridge, near York.

Four days after this battle, Duke William landed with his army on the coast of Sussex. A battle was fought at Senlac, near Hastings, in which the English were defeated and Harold was killed. William, therefore, became King of England.

## THE NORMAN LINE.

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### WILLIAM I.

1066 to 1087: 21 years.

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WILLIAM, Duke of Normandy, whose father was the cousin of Edward the Confessor, was crowned King of England on Christmas-day 1066.

Though he is called the Conqueror, because he gained England by conquering Harold, he regarded himself as the rightful ruler of the English. This was because after the Battle of Hastings he was chosen King by the Witan.

To his Norman followers who had helped him to win the crown he gave the lands of the Englishmen who had fought against him. In this way many of the great estates passed into Norman hands.

The new King was very anxious to gain the good-will of the English. He promised to rule the country according to English laws, and made some of the chief men his friends. He kept his soldiers firmly in check, and severely punished some of them who had ill-treated the people.

A few months after William had become King, he paid a visit to Normandy. The English rose against those whom he had left to rule for him. When he returned it took him four years to restore order in the land.

As a punishment the country from the Tyne to the Ouse was laid waste by Norman soldiers, who burned the houses and killed the people. Castles were then built in various parts of the land, and filled with soldiers to keep the English down. One of these castles is part of the famous Tower of London.

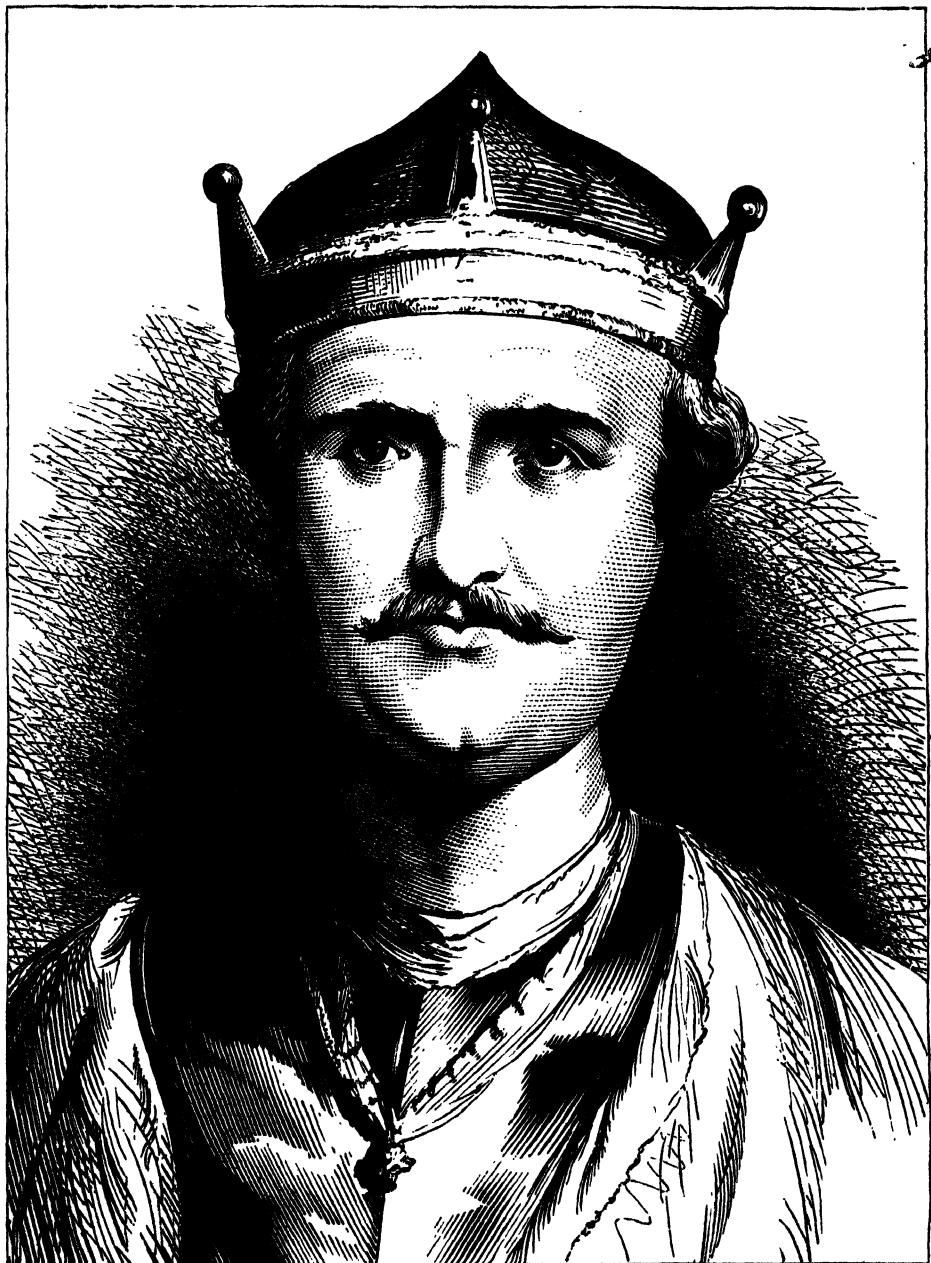
An English leader held out against William for a long time. He made his home on the Isle of Ely, which is surrounded with marshes. His name was Hereward the Saxon. He was at last betrayed by some monks, who showed the Conqueror a secret path over the marshes.

William was very fond of hunting, and to provide means for the enjoyment of this sport, he made what is called the New Forest in Hampshire. This was done by clearing all the people and their houses from the land, and planting it with trees.

Many persons were made homeless by this cruelty. Some of them became outlaws, and used the forest as a hiding-place, where they killed the King's deer.

This harsh treatment raised bitter feeling between the English and the Normans, and prevented for a long time all hope of their becoming one people.

William had given land to the Norman barons, for which,



WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

instead of paying rent, they had to provide him with a number of soldiers in time of war. This is called the Feudal System, from the word *feud*, a fief or fee, meaning a piece of land.

That the King might know exactly how much land each man had and how many soldiers he might expect from each landowner, he caused every estate in the country to be measured, and a full description of it to be written down in the Domesday Book. This book is still kept.

The King ordered a bell to be rung at eight o'clock at night in every parish throughout the land. This was a signal to the people to put out their fires and lights, and so protect the wooden houses from the risk of fire. The English did not like this, because it seemed to them to be a mark of slavery.

The Conqueror had four sons—Robert, Richard, William, and Henry—who caused him much trouble. Robert, the eldest, quarrelled with his brothers, and made war on his father.

In one battle the father and son met and fought, for, being covered with armour, they did not know each other. Robert struck down his father from his horse, and would have killed him had he not seen his face. He was then so shocked that he fell down before his father and asked his pardon.

While trying to take a town in France, William met with his death. His horse trod on some hot ashes, and began to rear and plunge. The King, who had become very fat and heavy, was hurt by the saddle. He died after a few weeks'



COMBAT BETWEEN WILLIAM AND HIS SON.

illness, in the sixty-third year of his age. He had been King of England twenty-one years.

William was an able man and very active. When he had made up his mind to do a thing, he allowed nothing to turn him from his purpose. Many of his acts of cruelty he regarded as needed to keep good order in the land.

## THE BURIAL OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.

1087 A.D.

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A NORMAN monk says that William's grave (in St. Stephen's minster at Caen) had to be purchased from a knight whose estate he had seized to furnish a site for the abbey, and who stopped the burial-service to claim his right.

Lowly upon his bier  
The royal Conqueror lay ;  
Baron and chief stood near,  
Silent, in war array.

Down the long minster's aisle  
Crowds mutely gazing streamed ;  
Altar and tomb, the while,  
Through mists of incense gleamed :

And by the torch's blaze  
The stately priest had said  
High words of power and praise  
To the glory of the dead.

They lowered him with the sound  
Of requiems to repose,  
When from the throngs around  
A solemn voice arose :—

“ Forbear ! forbear !” it cried ;  
“ In the holiest name forbear !  
He hath conquered regions wide,  
But he shall not slumber *there*.

“ By the violated hearth  
Which made way for yon proud shrine ;  
By the harvests which this earth  
Hath borne to me and mine ;

“ By the home even here o'erthrown,  
On my children's native spot—  
Hence ! with his dark renown  
Cumber our birth-place not !

“ Will my sire's unransomed field,  
O'er which your censers wave,  
To the buried spoiler yield  
Soft slumber in the grave ?

“ The tree before him fell  
Which we cherished many a year ;  
But its deep root yet shall swell,  
And heave against his bier !

“The land that I have tilled  
Hath yet its brooding breast  
With my home’s white ashes filled—  
And it shall not give him rest.

“Here each proud column’s bed  
Hath been wet by weeping eyes—  
Hence ! and bestow your dead  
Where no wrong against him cries !”

Shame glowed on each dark face  
Of those proud and steel-girt men,  
And they bought with gold a place  
For their leader’s dust e’en then.

A little earth for him  
Whose banner flew so far !  
And a peasant’s tale could dim  
The name, a nation’s star.

*One deep voice thus arose  
From a heart which wrongs had riven—  
Oh ! who shall number those  
That were but heard in heaven ?*

FELICIA HEMANS.

## WILLIAM II.

1087 to 1100: 13 years.

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WILLIAM was the son of the Conqueror. He was called Rufus, or the Red, on account of his red or ruddy face. It was his father's wish that he should be King, and William had crossed the Channel to England and taken possession of the crown before his eldest brother Robert thought of moving.

William gained many to his side by the promises he made to the English—but which he never kept—that he would not make them pay heavy taxes, and that he would let them hunt upon their own ground.

Robert, who was now Duke of Normandy, was far too careless and easy-going to fight for the throne of England.

William, however, who wanted Normandy, seized some of the strongholds. He was preparing to take the rest, when an agreement was come to between him and Robert. Things were to remain as at present; but when one of them died, the other was to succeed to both England and Normandy.

In those days people were in the habit of going to Jerusalem, to worship in the church which was said to be built over the grave of our Saviour. Jerusalem was in the hands of the

Turks, who were not Christians. They used the pilgrims very cruelly, and tried to hinder them from getting into the church which they had come so far to see.

When this had gone on for some time, a pilgrim named Peter the Hermit went from country to country, throughout all Europe, calling upon the Kings and Princes to send an army to Jerusalem for the purpose of taking it out of the hands of the Turks.

During the next two hundred years, large armies from all the Christian countries of Europe invaded the Holy Land. These wars were called Crusades, or Wars of the Cross, because those who took part in them wore a cross on their shoulders.

Robert, Duke of Normandy, was eager to go on the First Crusade. To obtain money for this purpose, he agreed to give up Normandy to his brother William for five years in return for ten thousand marks. William was only too glad to agree to this; and Robert took the money and went to Palestine.

William was killed by an arrow when hunting in the New Forest. It is said that Sir Walter Tyrrel was shooting at a deer: he missed his mark, and the arrow glancing off a tree struck the King.

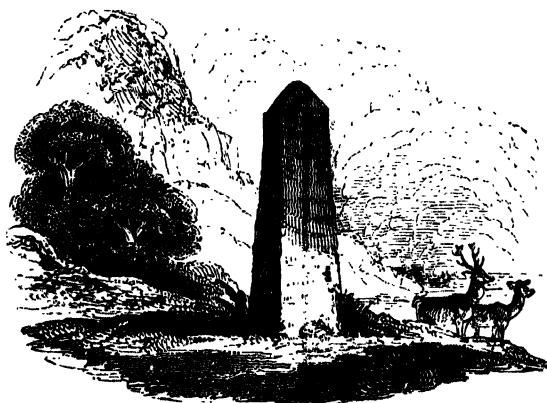
In great fear Tyrrel fled from the spot and escaped to France. In the evening the body of the King was found and carried to Winchester in a cart. William was a cruel man, and did little if anything to win the good-will of his people.

A stone (which may still be seen) in the New Forest marks



WILLIAM RUFUS.

the spot where the Red King was slain more than eight hundred years ago. It contains these words :—“ Here stood the oak-tree on which an arrow, shot by Sir Walter Tyrrel at a stag, glanced off, and struck King William the Second, surnamed Rufus, on the breast; of which stroke he instantly died, on the 2nd of August 1100. King William the Second, being thus slain, was laid in a cart belonging to one Purkess, and drawn from hence to Winchester, and buried in the cathedral church of that city. That the spot where an event so memorable happened might not hereafter be unknown, this stone was set up by John, Lord Delaware.”



RUFUS STONE IN NEW FOREST.

## THE CRUSADERS' WAR-SONG.

1093 A.D.

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CHIEFTAINS, lead on ! our hearts beat high,  
Lead on to Salem's towers !

Who would not deem it bliss to die,  
Slain in a cause like ours ?

The brave who sleep in soil of thine,  
Die not entombed but shrined, O Palestine !

Souls of the slain in holy war !  
Look from your sainted rest.

Tell us ye rose in Glory's car,  
To mingle with the blest ;  
Tell us how short the death-pang's power,  
How bright the joys of your immortal bower.

Strike the loud harp, ye minstrel train !  
Pour forth your loftiest lays ;  
Each heart shall echo to the strain  
Breathed in the warrior's praise.  
Bid every string triumphant swell  
The inspiring sounds that heroes love so well.

*THE CRUSADES WAR-SONG.*

Salem ! amidst the fiercest hour,  
The wildest rage of fight,  
Thy name shall lend our falchions power,  
And nerve our hearts with might.  
Envied be those for thee that fall,  
Who find their graves beneath thy sacred wall.

For them no need that sculptured tomb  
Should chronicle their fame,  
Or pyramid record their doom,  
Or deathless verse their name ;  
It is enough that dust of thine  
Should shroud their forms, O blessed Palestine !

Chieftains, lead on ! our hearts beat high  
For combat's glorious hour ;  
Soon shall the red-cross banner fly  
On Salem's loftiest tower !  
We burn to mingle in the strife,  
Where *but* to die insures eternal life.

FELICIA HEMANS.



CRUSADERS IN SIGHT OF JERUSALEM.

## HENRY I.

1100 to 1135: 35 years.

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**H**ENRY was the youngest son of the Conqueror. He was called Beauclerc, because he was able to read and write at a time when few people had any learning.

His elder brother, Robert, Duke of Normandy, had not yet returned from Jerusalem. The keeper of the royal treasures—the crown, the sceptre, and the jewels—was one of Robert's friends ; but Henry took them by force, and proceeded to London, where he was crowned.

To obtain the good-will of the people, Henry promised to allow them greater freedom than they had. He said that he would not force them to pay money in any unlawful way. As those promises were given in writing, the paper on which they were written was called a charter.

Robert came home soon after Henry had become King. He invaded England, and was helped by the Norman barons ; but the King's promises kept the people on his side. Instead of fighting, the brothers met, and agreed that Robert was to give up his claim to the English throne for a yearly payment of three thousand marks.



HENRY THE FIRST.

Soon after this Henry invaded Normandy, took Robert prisoner, and brought him to England. He was put into Cardiff Castle, in Wales, and kept there for the rest of his life—nearly twenty-eight years. It is said that, in order to prevent him from escaping, Henry ordered his brother's eyes to be burned out with a red-hot needle.

Henry's Queen was Matilda, daughter of Malcolm Third, King of Scotland. She was the niece of Edgar Atheling, the next heir to the throne when the Conqueror became King. This marriage united the Old English race of Kings with the Norman line.

Henry and Matilda had two children, William and Maud. When William was eighteen his father took him on a visit to Normandy, and made the barons there swear to obey him. On the return voyage the Prince's ship ran upon a rock, and all on board but one were drowned. It is said that after hearing the news the King never smiled again.

Henry died in Normandy after a few days' illness. He left the crown to his daughter Maud, and made his nobles and his nephew Stephen promise to obey her. Maud was married first to Henry, Emperor of Germany; and at his death she became the wife of Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou. Their son, Henry, became King, 1154.

## STEPHEN.

1135 to 1154: 19 years.

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STEPHEN was the son of Adela, the daughter of the Conqueror. Neither he nor the barons kept their promise to place Henry's daughter Maud on the throne.

Stephen wanted to be King, and the barons did not wish to be governed by a woman. It had been the custom in France for a long period not to allow the crown to descend to a female, and in an age when the sovereign was expected to command his own army, it was not a suitable position for a woman.

To please the nobles, Stephen allowed them to build castles for themselves on their own lands, and to hunt in their own forests.

David the First, King of Scotland, was Maud's uncle. To force Stephen to give up the crown, he invaded England; and laid waste Northumberland.

A great battle was fought at Northallerton, in which the Scots were defeated. This was called the Battle of the Standard, because the English fought under a cross fixed to the top of a mast, and hung with banners.

The cause of Maud was taken up by her half-brother, Robert

of Gloucester. During the struggle Stephen was taken prisoner, and Maud became Queen for a time ; but the manner in which she treated even her best friends set them against her.

At length Stephen was set free, in return for Robert of Gloucester, who had been made prisoner by Stephen's friends. Soon after, Maud was besieged at Oxford. For fear of falling into the hands of Stephen she dressed herself in white, that she might not be seen on the snow-covered ground, and so escaped. At last she was forced to retire to Normandy.

Maud did not continue the struggle for the crown ; but her son Henry, now a man, invaded England and claimed the throne. He was the Duke of Normandy, and the lord of wide lands in France ; which made him very powerful. It was at length agreed that Stephen should be King as long as he lived, but that at his death Henry should have the crown.

Henry had not to wait long, for Stephen died in 1154, after a reign of nineteen years. He was a better man than any of the other Norman Kings had been, but he was not a wise ruler.



STEPHEN.

## THE PLANTAGENET LINE.

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### HENRY II.

1154 to 1189: 35 years.

HENRY THE SECOND was the son of Maud, daughter of Henry the First, and Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou. He was the most powerful King of his time, as he ruled not only over England and part of Wales, but also over the greater part of France.

The liberty which Stephen had given to the barons to build castles on their own lands had caused much fighting all over the country. Henry's first step was to destroy a great many of the castles and force the barons to obey the laws. He set up proper courts of justice, and took back royal lands that had been given away.

In all this he was greatly helped by the people, who wished to make the King strong, in order that he might be able to free them from the bad treatment of the barons.

The foremost man in England during this reign was Thomas Becket (à Becket). He had helped Henry to restore order in



HENRY THE SECOND.

the country, and as a reward the King made him Chancellor—that is, Keeper of the Royal Seal.

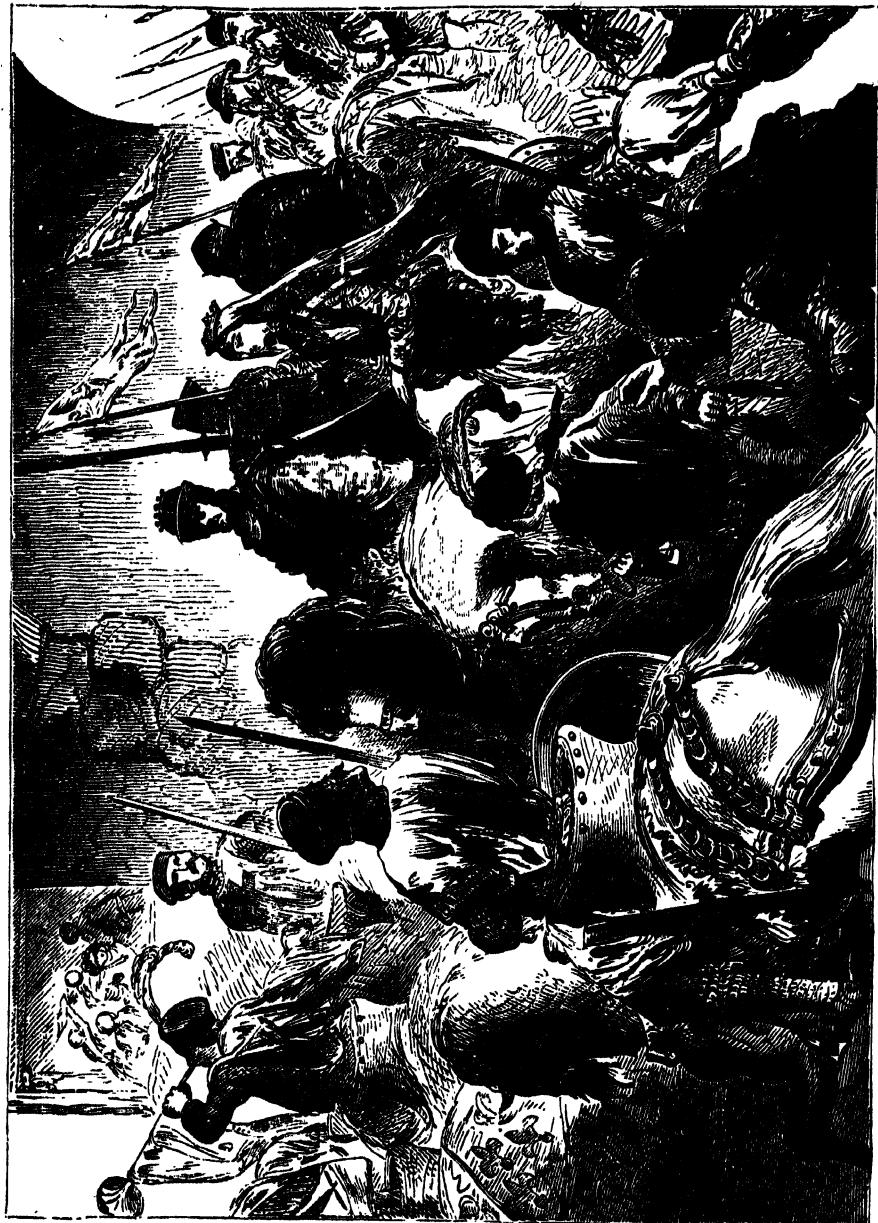
In 1166 Becket was made Archbishop of Canterbury, when he at once stopped his rich and costly manner of living, and began to eat coarse food and to wear rough clothing. This was not what the King wanted, and he began to dislike Becket.

Henry's dislike for Becket became greater every day, and at length ended in an open quarrel. A priest who had been guilty of a crime was tried and punished by the Archbishop, who refused to allow him to be tried in the King's court. Becket claimed that the King's judges had no power to punish the clergy.

At a meeting of the barons and bishops, held at Clarendon in Wiltshire, it was decided that the judges of the land had a right to punish priests who broke the laws, just the same as other men, and for a time Becket gave way. The quarrel, however, began again, and it grew so fierce that Becket had to leave the country.

At length the quarrel between the King and Becket was made up. The Archbishop returned; but he found his lands in the hands of others, and the King did not seem very willing to give them back to him. Becket cut off from the Church some of those who had taken the King's side.

When Henry heard of this he was very angry, and said, "Will no one of those who eat my bread free me from this



HENRY THE SECOND AND HIS QUEEN ENTERING WINCHESTER.

unruly priest?" Four of the King's knights, on hearing these words, agreed with each other to slay Becket.

They were at the time with Henry in Normandy, and secretly crossed over to England. Having gone to Canterbury, they found Becket in the Cathedral. There they slew him.

When the King heard of the murder he was not only very



MURDER OF BECKET.

sorry, but also much afraid of the Pope's anger; for at this time the Pope was the head of the Christian Church.

To make peace with the Pope, the King built a splendid tomb for Becket. Four years afterwards he showed his sorrow for having caused the priest's death by walking through the

streets of Canterbury with bare feet, and being scourged with knotted cords before Becket's tomb.

At this time Ireland was divided into six provinces, each of which had its own King. These Kings were constantly fighting with each other, and one of them asked Henry for help.

The English King allowed Strongbow, Earl of Pembroke, and others to go to the aid of the Irish King. Soon after, Henry went to Ireland, and the Irish Kings promised to obey him. He gave his son John the title of Lord of Ireland.

The barons did not like the changes which the King had made in the early part of his reign, for these had greatly lessened their power. They therefore joined his enemies, and a rising took place.

The King of Scotland invaded England, but was taken prisoner at Alnwick Castle ; and before he was set free he was forced to own Henry as Over-lord of Scotland.

The King's sons also turned against him. They were urged to this by their mother and the King of France. When Henry heard that his favourite son, John, had taken part with the rebels, he fell ill of a fever and died.

Henry was a clever man, and a lover of peace. He was fond of pleasure ; and when his temper got the better of him he acted with great cruelty.

## RICHARD I.

1189 to 1199 : 10 years.

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RICHARD, called Cœur de Lion, or the Lion-Hearted, was the third son of Henry the Second. His elder brothers had died before their father.

He did not care much for his kingdom, except to get money from it to enable him to engage in the Wars of the Cross. Of the ten years during which he reigned, he spent only about six months in England.

As soon as he was crowned he began to sell everything he could, that he might have money for the Crusade. Richard said that he would sell London if he could get a buyer ; and he gave up for ten thousand marks the homage which his father had forced from the Scottish King.

Richard joined with Philip, King of France, in the Third Crusade. The two Kings had a bitter quarrel, and Philip returned home.

While in Palestine, Richard also quarrelled with another of the leaders, called the Duke of Austria. Unable to take Jerusalem, Richard set out for England.

On his way home he was shipwrecked. Trying to pass



RICHARD CŒUR DE LION.

through Austria, in the dress of a pilgrim, he was seized by the Duke, with whom he had quarrelled. The Duke gave Richard up to the Emperor of Germany, who kept him in prison for more than a year, until the English people paid one hundred and fifty thousand marks for his freedom.

When Richard came home he found the country in great disorder. In his absence the rich and strong had shown no respect for the poor and weak.

Life and property were nowhere safe, and the forests were filled with robbers. It is said that Robin Hood, the famous outlaw, lived at this time in Sherwood Forest.

Richard's brother John and the King of France were plotting against Richard when he returned. John wished to be King, and Philip of France wanted to make Normandy part of his kingdom. The presence of Richard, however, was quite enough to put a stop to these plots ; and at his mother's request, he forgave his brother.

While trying to take a castle in France, Richard was struck by an arrow, and the wound caused his death. He was a brave man, but a bad King. He left no children to succeed him.



RICHARD COEUR DE LION AT JAFFA.

## RICHARD CŒUR DE LION AT HIS FATHER'S BIER.

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TORCHES were blazing clear,  
Hymns pealing deep and slow,  
Where a king lay stately on his bier  
In the Church of Fontevraud.  
Banners of battle o'er him hung,  
And warriors slept beneath,  
And light, as noon's broad light, was flung  
On the settled face of death.....

There was heard a heavy clang  
As of steel-girt men the tread,  
And the tomb and the hollow pavement rang  
With a sounding thrill of dread ;  
And the lowly chant was hushed awhile,  
As by the torch's flame  
A gleam of arms up the sweeping aisle  
With a mail-clad leader came.

He came with haughty look,  
An eagle glance and clear ;  
But his proud heart through its breastplate shook  
When he stood beside the bier.

He stood there with drooping brow,  
And clasped hands o'er it raised ;  
For his father lay before him low—  
It was Cœur de Lion gazed !.....

He looked upon the dead,  
And sorrow seemed to lie,  
A weight of sorrow, even like lead,  
Pale on the fast-shut eye.  
He stooped, and kissed the frozen cheek,  
And the heavy hand of clay,  
Till bursting words, yet all too weak,  
Gave his soul's passion way.

“ O father, is it vain,  
This late remorse and deep ?  
Speak to me, father, once again !  
I weep—behold, I weep !  
Alas ! my guilty pride and ire ;  
Were but this work undone,  
I would give England's crown, my sire,  
To hear thee bless thy son !.....

“ Thy silver hairs I see,  
So still, so sadly bright!  
And father, father, but for me  
They had not been so white !  
I bore thee down, high heart, at last,  
No longer couldst thou strive :  
Oh ! for one moment of the past,  
To kneel and say, ‘ Forgive ! ’ ”—FELICIA HEMANS.

## JOHN.

1199 to 1216: 17 years.

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TWO persons claimed the throne on the death of Richard— Arthur, his nephew, a boy of twelve, and John, his brother.

Arthur was the son of Geoffrey, an elder brother, who was now dead. John seized the throne, and then tried to get rid of Arthur. He shut him up in a French castle, and there caused him to be put to death.

John's cruelty to his nephew made the King of France and the French barons so angry with him that they took up arms and seized much of the land which he had in France. From this time Normandy no longer belonged to the Kings of England.

John quarrelled with the Pope on the question of who was to be Archbishop of Canterbury. The Pope ordered the churches of England to be closed, and for six years there was no worship in the land.

As John still held out, the Pope urged the King of France to drive him from his throne. This so frightened the English King that he yielded, and said he would do as the Pope wished.

John had a number of persons from France about his court



JOHN.

who had fought for him against Philip. He put these men into high offices, and gave them lands which did not belong to him. He also did many other wicked and cruel things which caused much misery among his people.

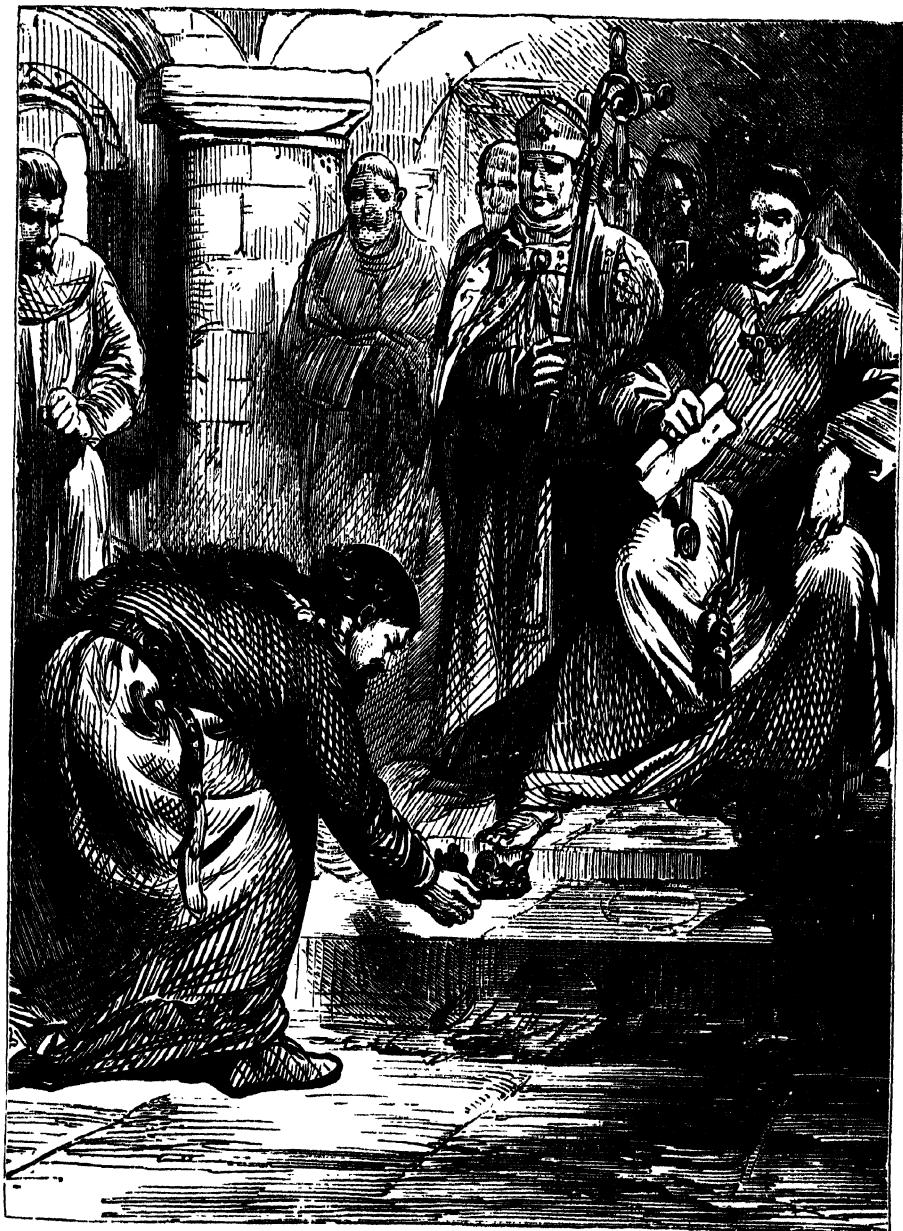
The Normans and the English were both against him, and made up their minds to put an end to his unlawful acts.

One Sunday in 1215 the barons forced John to sign a paper, called Magna Carta, or the Great Charter, in which he promised to rule according to the law of the land, and among other things he agreed not to keep any one in prison without a trial.

The King only signed the paper because he was afraid of the barons. He did not intend to keep his promise, and as soon as he was left to himself he began to act more cruelly than before. He raised an army of hired soldiers, and passed through the country, burning houses and robbing and killing the inhabitants.

To escape from the violence of the angry King, the people fled to the forests and hills. The barons called on Louis, the son of the French King, to come and take the throne. Louis came with an army, and John marched to meet him ; but as the English were crossing the Wash, the tide rose so rapidly that the King and his army had scarcely time to escape.

In the rush for life the King's crown, jewels, and money were lost. This trouble brought on a fever, of which he died. John was a bad man and a bad King. He was a liar, a coward, and a man of whom little good can be said.



KING JOHN AND THE POPE'S LEGATE.

## KING JOHN.

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THERE stands at Runnymede a king,  
While summer clothes the plains,  
The blood of high Plantagenet  
Is coursing through his veins ;  
But yet a sceptred hand he lifts  
To shade his haggard brow,  
As if constrained to do a deed  
His pride would disallow.

He pauses still.—His faint eye rests  
Upon those barons bold,  
Whose hands are grappling to their swords  
With fierce and sudden hold.  
That pause is broke ;—he bows him down  
Before those steel-girt men,  
And glorious Magna Carta glows  
Beneath his trembling pen.

His false lip to a smile is wreathed,  
As their exulting shout,  
From 'neath the green, embowering trees,  
Upon the gale swells out ;



JOHN SIGNING MAGNA CARTA.

Yet lingers long his cowering glance  
On Thames' translucent tide,  
As if some deep and bitter thought  
He from the throng would hide.

I know what sounds are in his ear,  
When wrathful tempests roll,  
When God doth bid his lightnings search,  
His thunders try the soul :  
Above the blast young Arthur's shriek  
Doth make the murderer quake,  
As if again his guiltless blood  
From Rouen's prison spake.

But though no red volcano burst  
To whelm the men of crime,  
No vengeful earthquake fiercely yawn  
To gorge them ere their time,  
Though Earth for her most guilty sons  
The festive board doth set,  
The wine-cup and the opiate draught,—  
Yet say, can Heaven forget ?

L. H. SIGOURNEY.

## HENRY III.

1216 to 1272: 56 years.

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**H**ENRY was the son of John. He was only nine years old when he became King; and as the crown had been lost in the Wash, he was crowned with his mother's golden bracelet till a crown could be made for him. As the King was so young, the Earl of Pembroke was made guardian and ruler of the land.

Though the barons had asked Louis to come and take the English throne, they had no wish to see England become a part of France. Therefore when John was dead they at once took the side of Henry.

Louis was not willing to return home without trying to get the English crown. The country, however, was now united against him. His army was defeated at Lincoln, and his fleet was destroyed off the coast of Kent. This put an end to the struggle, and in the same year he returned to France.

When Henry was seventeen years of age, he took the power into his own hands. But he was not a good King: he allowed favourites to have too much power, and to fill too many of the great offices of the country.

Henry's weakness in giving up the government to men who

knew nothing of English laws and customs caused the barons to rise against him. A Parliament was called to raise money to pay the King's debts. The barons came to it with arms in their hands. It met at Oxford, and was called the Mad Parliament. It made rules to guide the King in governing the country ; but he refused to follow them.

At length war broke out between the King and the barons. A battle was fought at Lewes, in Sussex, in which Henry was taken prisoner. Prince Edward gave himself up soon afterwards.

Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, then called together a Parliament in the King's name. This consisted of members chosen by the people in all parts of the land, and may be said to have formed the first House of Commons.

Prince Edward made his escape from those who had charge of him, and gathering together a large army, he met Simon de Montfort at Evesham. Leicester was defeated and killed, and the King was again placed on his throne.

Prince Edward, with his wife Eleanor, took part in the seventh and last Crusade. While he was away, his father died, after reigning fifty-six years—longer than any of our monarchs except George the Third. Henry was a weak ruler, and easily led by favourites.



HENRY THE THIRD.



DEPARTURE OF EDWARD AND ELEANOR ON THE SEVENTH CRUSADE.

## EDWARD I.

1272 to 1307: 35 years.

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EDWARD was the eldest son of Henry the Third. He was on his way home from the Holy Land when he heard of his father's death.

He was a much better ruler than his father had been, and was also a brave and wise man. His first work was to put down the disorders which had arisen in the late reign. Having done this he set about a more difficult task.

Edward had a strong desire to rule over the whole island of Britain. He was not satisfied with being King of England only ; he wished to add Scotland and Wales to his kingdom.

There had been many wars with Scotland ; and once when a Scottish King was a prisoner in England he had been forced to own the English King as his over-lord. Other Kings had tried to conquer Wales, but had failed.

Edward led an army against the Welsh, and defeated them near Snowdon. For five years he marched his soldiers through their land ; but it was not till the death of Llewellyn, the Prince of Wales, that the war came to an end in 1282.

When Edward brought the Welsh chiefs together, that they

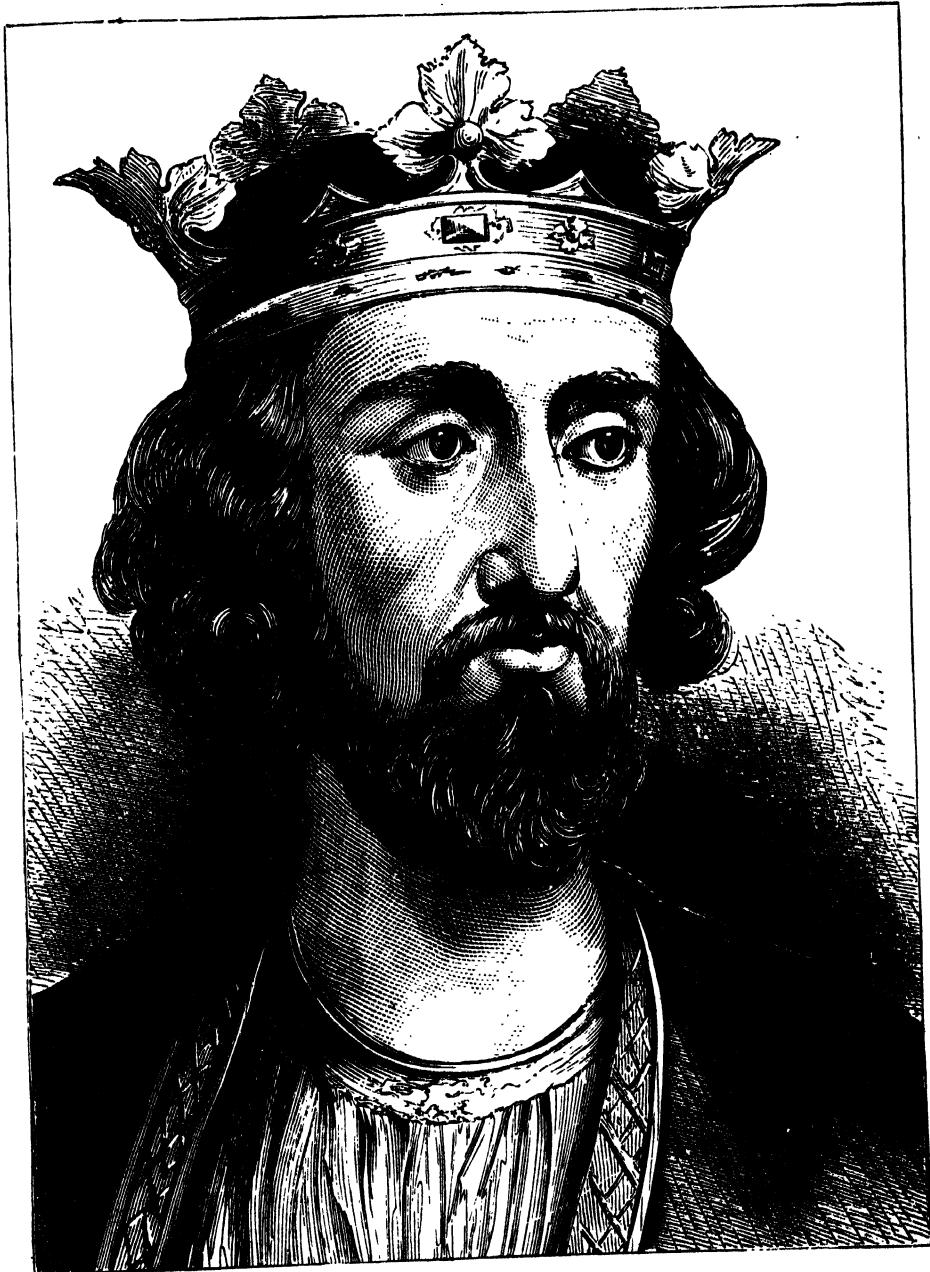
might promise to obey him, he said that he would give them a Prince who was a Welshman by birth, and who could not speak one word of English. This Prince they promised to obey.

The King then ordered his infant son, who had been born



THE FIRST ENGLISH PRINCE OF WALES.

a few days before, at Caernarvon Castle, to be brought in. "Here," said he, "is your new Prince;" and ever since then the eldest son of the English sovereign has been called Prince of Wales.



EDWARD THE FIRST.

At this time a number of persons claimed the crown of Scotland, and Edward claimed the right to settle which of them should be King, because long before this William the Lion of Scotland had submitted to Henry the Second at Alnwick Castle.

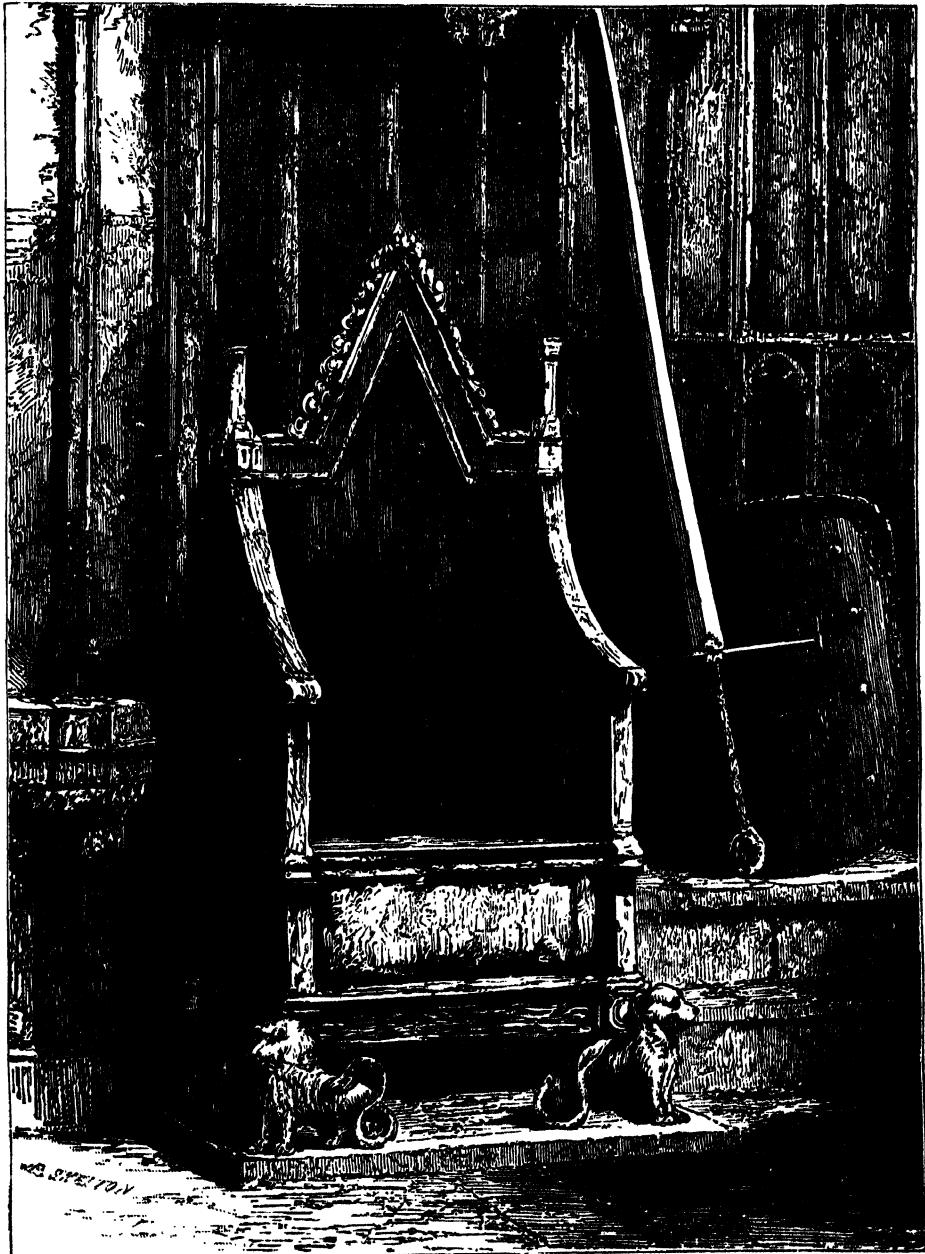
As Edward did not get his own way, he made war on Scotland. In this he was at first successful. He carried off to England the ancient stone on which the Kings of Scotland were crowned, and which now forms part of the British Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey.

The first to make a stand against the English was Sir William Wallace, who defeated them in a battle near Stirling. He was in turn defeated at Falkirk. A few years afterwards a false friend gave him up to Edward, who put him to death in London.

Robert the Bruce next placed himself at the head of the Scottish army. He was of the royal line, and before long the strength of the country gathered round him. He was crowned at Scone in 1306.

When Edward heard that Bruce had been crowned, he was very angry, and rose from a sick-bed to march once more upon Scotland. The effort was too much for his strength. He was unable to go beyond Carlisle, near which city he died.

His last wish was that the war should go on, and that his body should be carried into Scotland in front of the army, till that country had been overcome.



CORONATION CHAIR, CONTAINING THE STONE FROM SCONE.

## EDWARD II.

1307 to 1327: 20 years.

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EDWARD THE SECOND, the son of Edward the First, began to reign at the age of twenty-three. He was too fond of pleasure to have any desire to carry out his dead father's wishes. He gave up the war with Scotland, and buried his father in Westminster Abbey. On his tomb he put the words : "Here lies the Hammer of the Scots."

He soon lost the good-will of his people by showing too much favour to worthless foreigners, whom he allowed to govern the kingdom. This made his nobles so angry that they seized his chief favourite and put him to death.

Bruce had been crowned King of Scotland in 1306, the year before Edward the First died ; but many of the strongholds of the country were still held by English soldiers. One by one, however, he got them back, until Stirling Castle, a strong fortress on the river Forth, was the only place that held out against him.

To prevent Bruce from taking this castle, Edward marched into Scotland with an army of one hundred thousand men—the



EDWARD THE SECOND.

finest army that any King of England had ever brought into the field.

Edward had forty thousand horse-soldiers, many of them being clad in mail—horses as well as men. More than half the army consisted of archers with their six-foot bows, each man with his four and twenty cloth-yard arrows; whence the boast that “every English Bowman carried the lives of two dozen Scotsmen at his belt.”

Bruce gathered an army of about forty thousand men. It was made up mostly of foot-soldiers armed with long spears or with pikes; but it contained very few horsemen—only five hundred besides the leaders and the nobles.

At Bannockburn, a few miles south of Stirling, the two armies met, and a great battle was fought. The English were defeated, and Edward narrowly escaped with his life. After that Bruce reigned in peace, and Scotland was never again in danger of being conquered.

The King still had favourites, but this time they were not strangers. He chose them from among his own people. This fact, however, did not make the nobles think that it was fair to favour one more than another.

To make matters worse, Edward quarrelled with his Queen, Isabella, who was a bad and selfish woman. To get the power into her own hands, she took the side of the nobles. They began a war against the King, and took him prisoner.

No sooner was Edward in the hands of the barons than

Parliament declared that he was no longer King. His son Edward was placed on the throne ; but the real power was in the hands of the Queen.

Edward was treated with great cruelty. He was moved from place to place, but was at last shut up in Berkeley Castle, near Gloucester, where he was secretly put to death. One night fearful shrieks were heard, and next morning the people were shown the body of the dead King.



STIRLING CASTLE.

## EDWARD III.

1327 to 1377: 50 years.

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EDWARD THE THIRD, the eldest son of Edward the Second, was only fifteen years old when he became King.

His mother was the real ruler, and she placed much of her power in the hands of her favourite Mortimer. So badly did they rule that when the King was eighteen years old he took the power into his own hands, hanged Mortimer, and confined the Queen to her house during the rest of her life.

War began again with Scotland in the first year of Edward's reign. Several battles were fought, and the town of Berwick fell into the hands of the English. Since then it has been regarded as an English town. In the end the Parliament of England admitted the independence of Scotland.

Edward's mother was the daughter of the King of France, and as there was at the time a quarrel about the crown of that country, Edward laid claim to it, and called himself King of France.

Edward crossed over to France to fight for the crown. As soon as he landed he knighted his son, the Prince of Wales,



EDWARD THE THIRD.

then a lad of fifteen. He was called the Black Prince, from the colour of his armour.

After fighting several battles, Edward marched towards Calais, and was met by the French army at Crecy, a village in the north of France, where a great victory was gained by the English, chiefly through the bravery of the Black Prince.

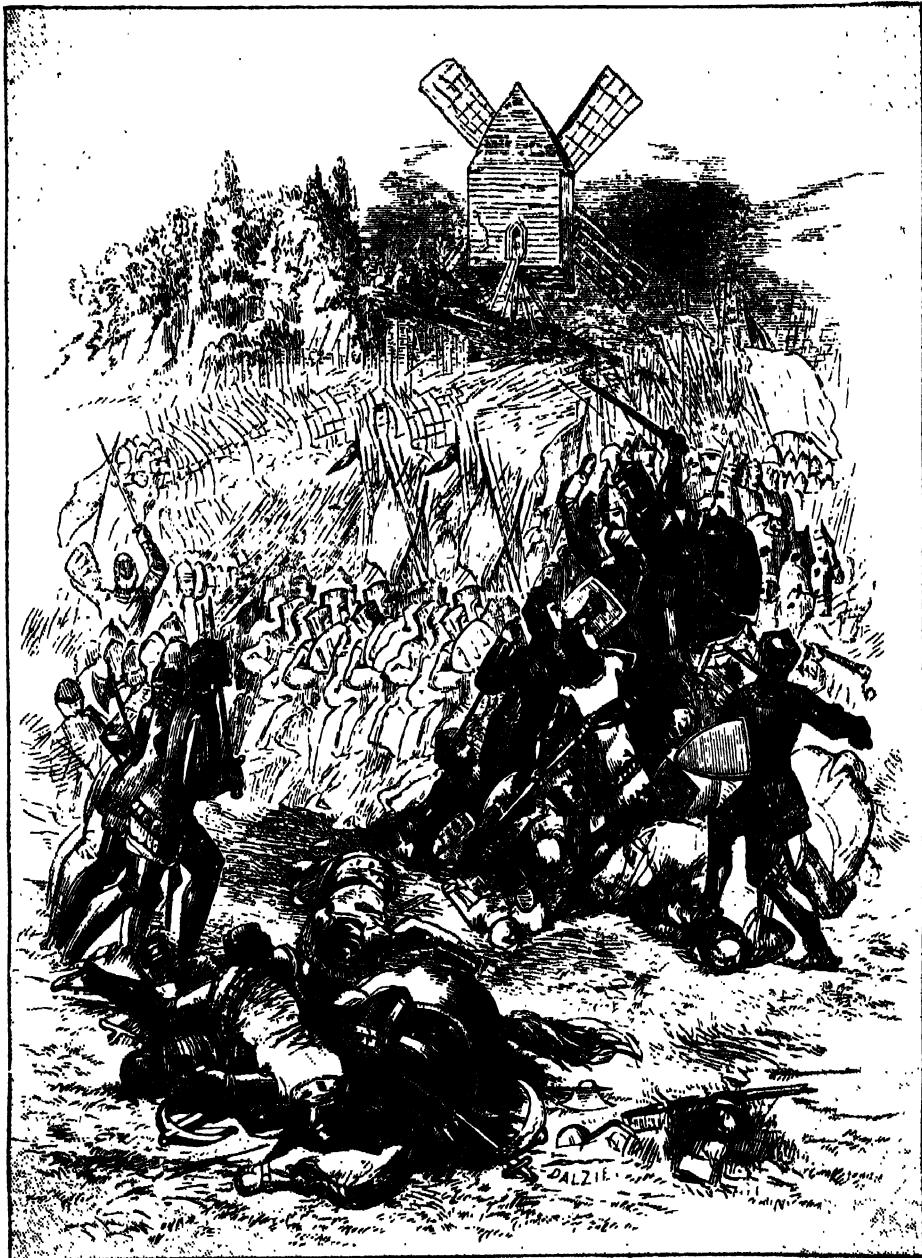
The King took no part in the fight, but watched the battle from a windmill. When he was told that his son was hard pressed, he said, "Let the boy win his spurs : his shall be the glory of the day."

Cannon were first used in this battle. There was a fearful slaughter. Among the slain was the blind King of Bohemia, whose badge of three ostrich feathers has ever since been borne by the Prince of Wales. Over it is the motto, "Ich Dien" (I serve). When all was over, more than thirty thousand Frenchmen lay dead upon the field. The chief outcome of this battle was the taking of Calais, which remained an English town for two hundred years.



Three years after the Battle of Crecy, a deadly sickness, called the Black Death, passed over Europe. In England alone many thousands of persons died. This caused great misery all over the land. Trade was at a standstill, the crops were unreaped, and food became so dear that many died of want.

The war with France began again, and the Black Prince



THE BATTLE OF OREY.

led an army into that country. Wishing to return, he was met by a French army seven times as large as his own. This he defeated, and having taken the King and his son prisoners, he brought them to England.

There was at this time another captive King in London. David the Second of Scotland had been defeated and taken prisoner at Neyil's Cross, in Durham, in the year 1346. He was set free in 1357 on payment of a large sum of money. John, King of France, died in London.

The Black Prince became ill while taking part in a war in Spain. He gained a victory, but returned home to die. He was a brave and generous man, and would most likely have been a good and useful King.

In the following year the King died, at the age of sixty-four, after reigning fifty years. He was a brave man and an able ruler.

## RICHARD II.

1377 to 1399: 22 years.

**R**ICHARD THE SECOND, the son of the Black Prince, and the grandson of Edward the Third, came to the throne when only eleven years of age. Nine of the chief men of the country were chosen to act for him until he was old enough to rule.

The people of England had to find money to pay for all the wars which their Kings carried on. One way in which the money was raised was by causing every person above fifteen years of age to pay a tax of one shilling. This was called a poll-tax—that is, a tax per head.

The poor people thought that it was unfair that they should have to pay as much as the rich, and the tax-gatherers made things worse by their rudeness. One of them behaved so badly at the house of Wat Tyler that Tyler struck him with a hammer, and killed him on the spot.

At the head of a great many people Tyler then marched to London, doing much harm by the way. Richard met them, and while Tyler was speaking to him he put his hand on the bridle of the King's horse.

The Lord Mayor of London at once struck Tyler to the ground, and he was killed by another of the King's followers. Richard then promised to the people that he would put everything right ; but he did not keep his word.

When Richard was twenty-two years of age he took the government of the country into his own hands. Feeling himself too weak to guide his unruly people, he left much of the power in the hands of others. This soon raised a quarrel between him and his nobles, which in the end caused him to lose both his crown and his life.

For quarrelling with each other, he sent out of the country his cousin, the Duke of Hereford, the son of the Duke of Lancaster, and also the Duke of Norfolk.

His uncle the Duke of Lancaster died, and the King seized his lands. When Hereford heard of this, he made up his mind to drive his cousin from the throne. He landed in Yorkshire with a few followers, but was soon at the head of a large army, with which he entered London.

When Hereford arrived in England the King was in Ireland. Richard returned, to find that his kingdom had passed from his hands. He was taken as a prisoner to London, where he gave up his crown.

In the following year he was murdered in Pontefract Castle. Richard was in many respects like Edward the Second. He was both weak and selfish, and never knew his duty as a King.



RICHARD THE SECOND.

## HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

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### HENRY IV.

1399 to 1413 : 14 years.

HENRY was the son of the Duke of Lancaster, and the grandson of Edward the Third. We have seen that he took the throne from his cousin, Richard the Second.

Henry had no right to be King even after Richard's death, for the children of his father's elder brother were alive. Many plots were laid against Henry ; but he was watchful and active, and most of the people were on his side.

A rising in Wales took place under Owen Glendower, who claimed to be descended from the old Welsh Princes. He was joined by the Scots and the Percies of Northumberland. A battle was fought at Shrewsbury, and the rebels were defeated.

While on a voyage to France, Prince James of Scotland, who was afterwards James the First, was taken prisoner by the English, and carried to London. He was kept in England for nineteen years.

The King's eldest son, Prince Henry, caused his father a



HENRY THE FOURTH.



PRINCE HENRY BEFORE THE JUDGE.

good deal of trouble. He was kind-hearted and full of spirit, and the people were very fond of him. His love of sport, however, sometimes carried him too far, and it is said that he once took part in a robbery.

Some of his friends were put in prison. The young Prince asked to have them set free, and because the judge would not

do so Henry struck him on the face. The judge ordered the Prince to be put in prison. When the King heard of this, he said that he was pleased to know that he had a judge who could act so faithfully.

The King's strength was worn out by illness before he was an old man. He died at the age of forty-seven, leaving four sons and two daughters. He was bold and watchful, but of a harsh temper. Having taken the crown by force, he had many enemies, and ruled more by fear than by love.

During his last illness he caused his crown to be set on a pillow at the head of his bed. Here the Prince found it, and thinking that his father was dead, he put on the crown, and then carried it for safety to another room. When the King awoke from his deep sleep he asked for the crown, and the Prince restored it, and begged to be forgiven.

Henry's peace of mind was destroyed by jealousy, and he was so unhappy that in after years Shakespeare, in one of his plays, put into Henry the Fourth's mouth the words, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

## HENRY V.

1413 to 1422 : 9 years.

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**H**ENRY THE FIFTH was the son of Henry the Fourth. When he became King he at once gave up his wild ways. He told his former friends that he meant to lead a new life, and begged them to follow his example. He took as his advisers the wisest men of the land.

The followers of John Wyclif (who in Richard the Second's reign had tried to make changes in the Church) were called Lollards. They wished to bring about a change in the religion of the country.

Their leader was Sir John Oldcastle, afterwards Lord Cobham, who had been one of the Prince's companions. He was tried and condemned to death; but escaped from the Tower in 1417. After this he was again taken prisoner, and was burned to death.

The war with France, which had been carried on by Edward the Third, now began again. Henry saw that the French King was not liked by his subjects, and wishing to find work for his barons, who were giving him a good deal of trouble, he made up his mind to invade France.



HENRY THE FIFTH.

With thirty thousand men Henry crossed over to France, and took one of the chief seaports. On his march to Calais he was met at Agincourt by a French army of sixty thousand men.

Henry had lost more than half of the soldiers that he had brought from England, and even those who remained were almost worn out with hunger and fatigue.

Creçy was near at hand, and Henry remembered what had been done there nearly sixty years before. The ground was wet with rain when in the early morning the English began the attack, and the French horsemen could not press forward. The English archers, the best in the world, led the way ; and after shooting their arrows from behind a row of sharp stakes, they rushed upon the French ranks. At last the French were defeated with terrible loss.

Among the slain there were seven princes of royal blood, a hundred nobles, eight thousand knights, and more than ten thousand common soldiers. The English lost only some sixteen hundred men.

Henry's army was too small to follow up this victory. He came back to England, where he received a joyful welcome from the people. Some even rushed into the sea to meet the boat that was bringing him to land. Parliament voted him a large sum of money, and he again invaded France, with a much larger army than before.

This time he carried all before him. Peace was made, and



BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.

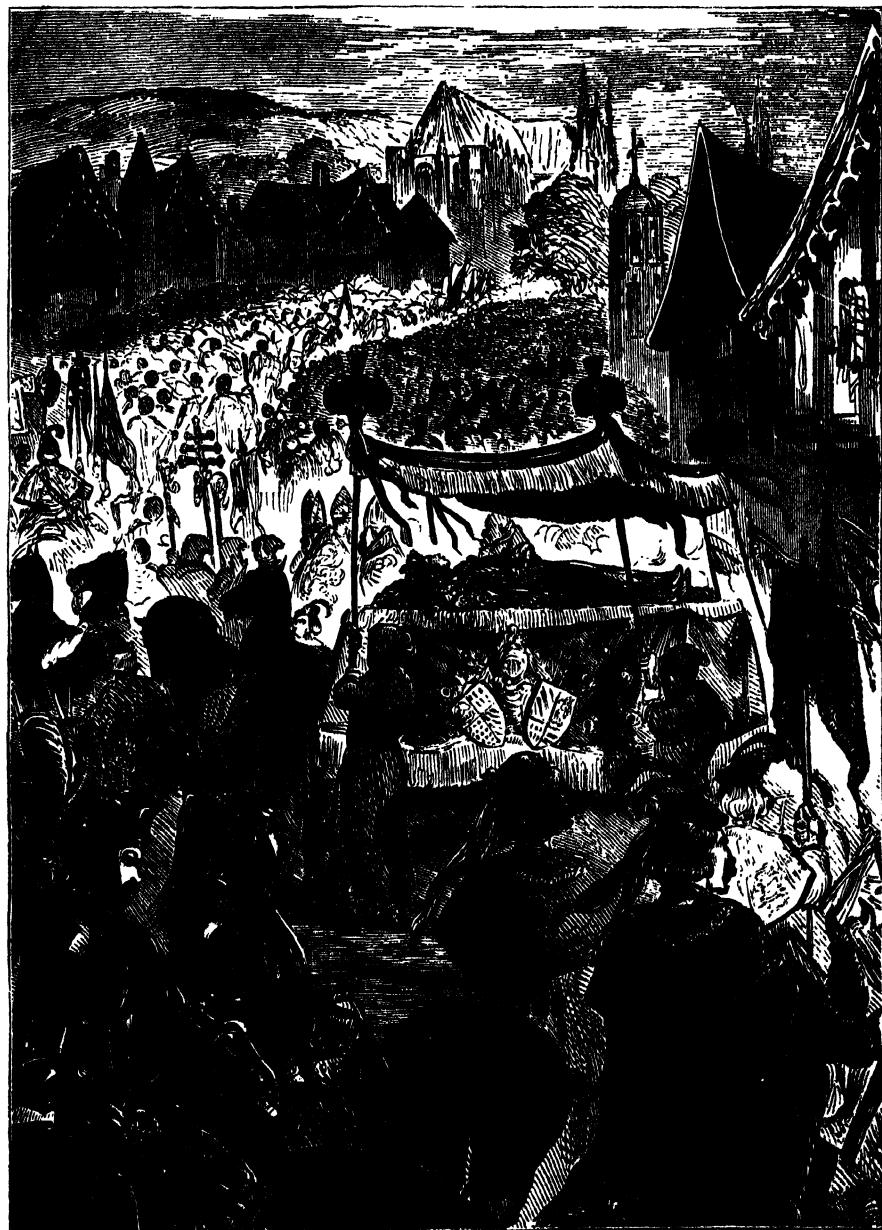
it was agreed that Henry should marry the daughter of the French King; that he should be Regent of France while the weak King Charles lived; and that he should succeed to the throne at the King's death.

Henry had no sooner returned to England than he was suddenly called back to France. The French King's eldest son, helped by a body of Scots, had beaten the English. Henry marched into Paris, and was about to be declared King of France, when he fell ill, and died in the thirty-fourth year of his age.

Henry's body was brought to England, where it received a grand funeral in Westminster Abbey. It is said to have been one of the most magnificent recorded in history, for the people were proud of their warrior-king.

Henry was a great soldier and an able man, but his wars cost England a great many lives. He was a good ruler, and treated justly both rich and poor. He had been well taught, and was fond of the company of learned men.

His widow, Catherine, the daughter of the French King, married a Welsh gentleman, Owen Tudor. From them descended the royal House of Tudor, of which the first King was Henry the Seventh.



FUNERAL OF HENRY THE FIFTH.

## HENRY VI.

1422 to 1461: 39 years.

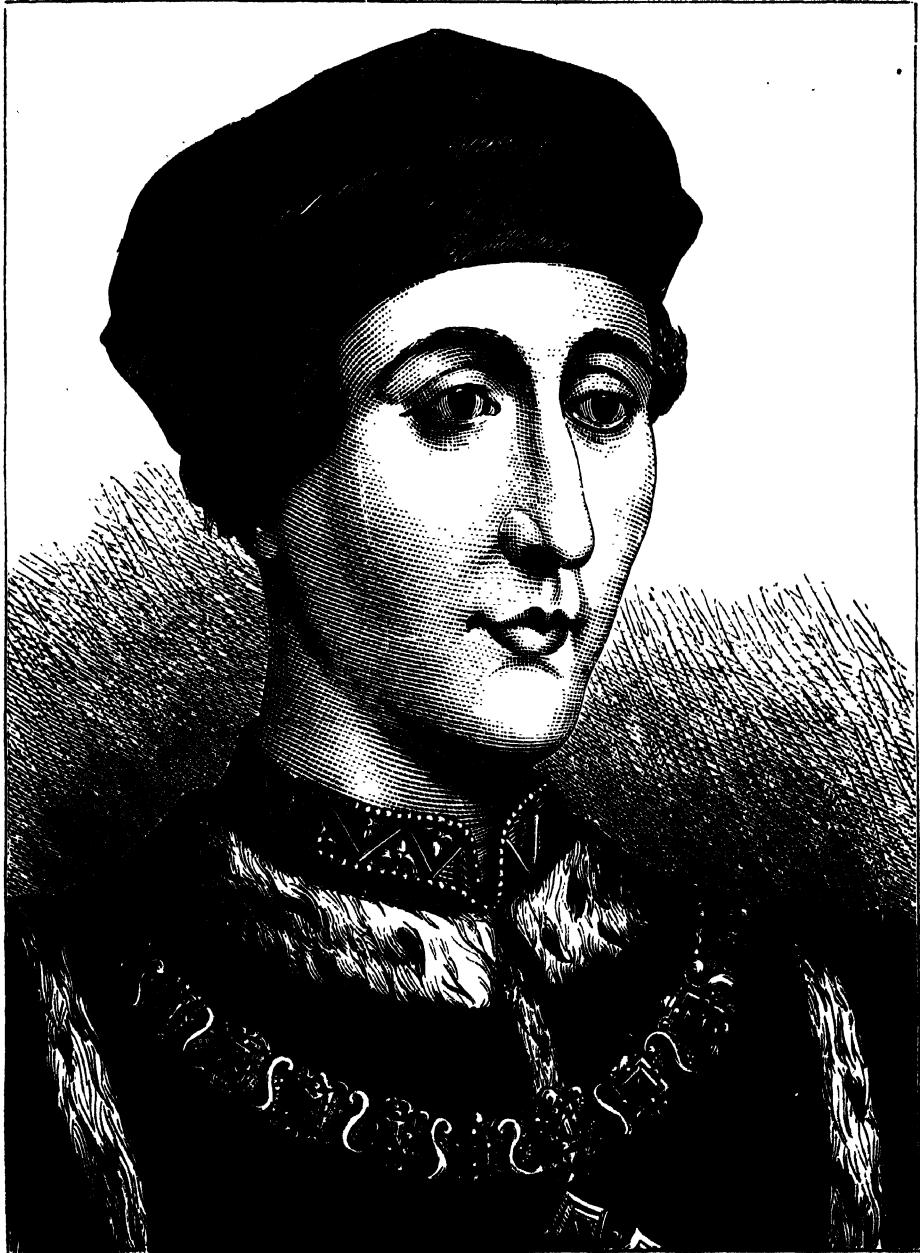
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**H**ENRY THE SIXTH was the son of Henry the Fifth. He was a baby, only nine months old, when his father died. Shortly after this the King of France died also; and Henry, according to the treaty made with his father, was proclaimed King of France. The Duke of Bedford, the King's uncle, was appointed to govern in Henry's name.

Fighting still went on in France. Charles, a son of the late King, claimed the French throne. The English army laid siege to Orleans, and it seemed as if the city would fall into their hands, when the French received help in a very strange manner.

One day, while the siege was going on, a young girl from a village in the east of France went to the French Prince and told him that she had been sent by God to save Orleans and to crown him King. Charles listened to her story, and willing to do anything to beat the English, he put Joan at the head of some troops.

The English were so much surprised that they let Joan enter Orleans with her army; and the French soldiers, believing



HENRY THE SIXTH.

that she had been raised by Heaven to save her country, fought with so much bravery that at length they drove the English from before the walls. On account of this victory, Joan was called "The Maid of Orleans."

Joan defeated the English in several battles, and won back for the French King a great part of the country that he had lost. Within two months Charles was crowned King of France at Rheims.

Many French cities were still in the hands of the English, and the struggle continued. For a time Joan carried all before her; but at last she was taken prisoner, and burned to death for a witch in the market-place of Rouen. The King, for whom she had done so much, did nothing to try to save her from this cruel death.

From this time the English power in France began to grow less. The Duke of Bedford died; and though the English held Paris for a time, they had to give it up in 1440. In 1451 all the towns, except Calais, that had been held by the English in France were again in the hands of the French.

The people of England were very angry when they heard of the losses in France. A rising took place in Kent among the common people. They were led by Jack Cade, who called himself Mortimer, the family name of the House of York. He defeated the King's soldiers, and marched to London, which he held for two days. He was at last defeated and slain.

Henry the Sixth was weak both in mind and body. On



JOAN ATTACKING THE ENGLISH FORT AT ORLEANS.

the death of those of his friends who had helped him to rule the country, there began a struggle for power which ended in civil war.

Henry had as yet no son, and the next heir was Richard, Duke of York, who had, through his mother, a better right to the throne than the King himself. Both Henry and Richard were members of the royal family, and had descended from Edward the Third; but Richard belonged to an older branch than Henry. When once Richard had begun to think of being King, he did not give up the idea even when Henry's son was born.

About this time the King fell ill, and was unable to govern. Richard became Protector of the land, and ruled in his name. When Henry recovered from his illness, the Duke of York was unwilling to give up his power. He got ready to fight, and so the Wars of the Roses began.

The Wars of the Roses were so called because the King's party, who were of the House of Lancaster, wore red roses, while those who took the side of the Duke of York wore white ones.

The first battle was fought at St. Albans in 1455, when the King was defeated and made prisoner. He was, however, soon set free, and a short time of peace followed.

Four years later the war began again. Henry was once more a prisoner, and York laid claim to the throne. Parliament decided that Henry should reign till his death, and that the crown should then pass to the House of York.

Queen Margaret was very angry when she heard that her son was to be shut out from the throne. At Wakefield Green she defeated the Yorkists. In this battle the Duke of York was slain, and his head, wearing a paper crown, was stuck on the walls of York city.

Edward, the son of the fallen Duke, claimed the crown. At Mortimer's Cross he defeated the King's army, marched to London, and was declared King with the title of Edward the Fourth.

Henry escaped to the north of England, but was afterwards taken prisoner and placed in the Tower of London. He was too weak-minded to rule alone, and had to bear the blame of the faults of those in whom he trusted.

## JOAN OF ARC IN RHEIMS.

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THAT was a joyous day in Rheims of old,  
When peal on peal of mighty music rolled  
From forth her thronged cathedral ; while around,  
A multitude, whose billows made no sound,  
Chained to a hush of wonder, though elate  
With victory, listened at their temple's gate.  
And what was done within ? Within, the light,

Through the rich gloom of pictured windows flowing,  
Tinged with soft awfulness a stately sight—

The chivalry of France their proud heads bowing  
In martial vassalage ! While 'midst that ring,  
And shadowed by ancestral tombs, a King  
Received his birthright's crown. For this, the hymn

Swelled out like rushing waters, and the day  
With the sweet censer's misty breath grew dim,

As through long aisles it floated o'er the array  
Of arms and sweeping stoles. But who, alone  
And unapproached, beside the altar stone,  
With the white banner forth like sunshine streaming,  
And the gold helm through clouds of fragrance gleaming,  
Silent and radiant stood ? The helm was raised,  
And the fair face revealed, that upward gazed,  
Intensely worshipping—a still, clear face,



JOAN AT THE CORONATION OF CHARLES.

Youthful, but brightly solemn ! Woman's cheek  
 And brow were there, in deep devotion meek,  
 Yet glorified, with inspiration's trace  
 On its pure paleness ; while, enthroned above,  
 The pictured Virgin, with her smile of love,  
 Seemed bending o'er her votaress. That slight form !  
 Was that the leader through the battle storm ?  
 Had the soft light in that adoring eye  
 Guided the warrior where the swords flashed high ?  
 'Twas so, even so !—and thou, the shepherd's child,  
 Joanne, the lovely dreamer of the wild !  
 Never before, and never since that hour,  
 Hath woman, mantled with victorious power,  
 Stood forth as *thou* beside the shrine didst stand,  
 Holy amidst the knighthood of the land,  
 And, beautiful with joy and with renown,  
 Lift thy white banner o'er the olden crown,  
 Ransomed for France by thee !

The rites are done.

Now let the dome with trumpet-notes be shaken,  
 And bid the echoes of the tomb awaken,  
 And come thou forth, that heaven's rejoicing sun  
 May give thee welcome from thine own blue skies,  
 Daughter of victory ! A triumphant strain,  
 A proud rich stream of warlike melodies,  
 Gushed through the portals of the antique fane,  
 And forth she came. Then rose a nation's sound :  
 Oh ! what a power to bid the quick heart bound

The wind bears onward with the stormy cheer  
Man gives to glory on her high career !  
Is there indeed such power ?—far deeper dwells  
In one kind household voice, to reach the cells  
Whence happiness flows forth ! The shouts that filled  
The hollow heaven tempestuously were stilled  
One moment ; and in that brief pause, the tone,  
As of a breeze that o'er her home had blown,  
Sank on the bright Maid's heart. “ Joanne ! ”—Who spoke

Like those whose childhood with *her* childhood grew  
Under one roof ? “ Joanne ! ”—*that* murmur broke  
With sounds of weeping forth ! She turned—she knew  
Beside her, marked from all the thousands there,  
In the calm beauty of his silver hair,  
The stately shepherd ; and the youth, whose joy  
From his dark eye flashed proudly ; and the boy,  
The youngest born, that ever loved her best :—  
“ Father ! and ye, my brothers ! ” On the breast  
Of that gray sire she sank ; and swiftly back,  
Even in an instant, to their native track  
Her free thoughts flowed. She saw the pomp no more,  
The plumes, the banners : to her cabin-door,  
And to the Fairy's Fountain in the glade,  
Where her young sisters by her side had played,  
And to her hamlet's chapel, where it rose  
Hallowing the forest unto deep repose,  
Her spirit turned.

## HOUSE OF YORK.

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### EDWARD IV.

1461 to 1483: 22 years.

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EDWARD THE FOURTH was the son of Richard, Duke of York, who was slain at Wakefield Green. He was the true heir to the throne, which had been seized by the House of Lancaster when Henry the Fourth deposed Richard the Second. Edward's claim came through his mother, who was descended from an older son of Edward the Third.

Henry the Sixth was still alive, and the northern part of the country remained faithful to him. At Towton, in Yorkshire, one of the most terrible battles was fought, and the power of the Red Rose was completely crushed.

The most powerful noble in England at this time was the Earl of Warwick. He was a strong supporter of Edward, until a quarrel took place about the King's marriage; for Warwick had wished Edward to marry his daughter.

The Earl fled to France, where he joined Queen Margaret;



EDWARD THE FOURTH.

and they raised so great an army that Edward had to flee. Henry the Sixth was taken from prison and once more set on the throne.

Edward soon returned, and his friends flocked around him in vast numbers. The two armies met at Barnet, where Warwick was defeated and slain. Warwick was called the King-



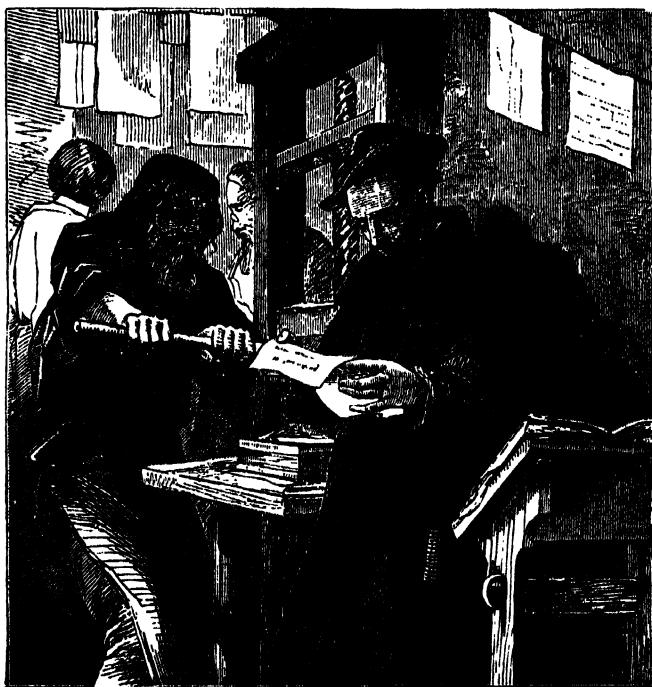
KING EDWARD AND PRINCE EDWARD.

maker, because by his help Edward had been made King, and also because he had been able to restore Henry to the throne.

Henry was again thrown into the Tower; but Queen Margaret fought yet another battle for the crown of England. She was defeated at Tewkesbury, and along with her son Edward was taken prisoner.

The King caused the young Prince to be brought before

him, and was so angry at his brave conduct that he struck him on the face with his iron glove. The King's brothers then stabbed the noble youth to death with their daggers. A few weeks afterwards King Henry was found dead in the Tower.



CAXTON, THE FIRST ENGLISH PRINTER.

Edward reigned for twelve years after the Battle of Tewkesbury, when he died at the age of forty-one. He was not a good man, and he cruelly treated those of his enemies who fell into his power. Printing was first carried on in England during this reign.

## EDWARD V.

1483 : 11 weeks.

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EDWARD, the eldest son of Edward the Fourth, was only twelve years of age when his father died. He was proclaimed King, but never crowned. His uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was made Protector, and ruled in the King's name.

The Duke of Gloucester wanted the throne for himself. He therefore had the young King and his little brother the Duke of York taken to the Tower of London. He said that this was done for their safety ; but really it was that he might have them altogether in his power.

Gloucester next took steps to get rid of all those nobles who were faithful to the young King. He charged them with plotting against the King, and had them put to death without trial.

He next spread abroad a report that young Edward was not the rightful King, and then got some of his friends to offer the crown to him.

At first he said that he would not be King, and that "he loved his brother's children more than he loved the crown." He did not mean this, for he was proclaimed King the very next day, and was crowned Richard the Third.



EDWARD THE FIFTH.

## RICHARD III.

1483 to 1485: 2 years.

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RICHARD was the uncle of Edward the Fifth, and the brother of Edward the Fourth. Soon after he became King his nephews, the little Princes, disappeared from the Tower.

It is said that by their uncle's orders they were smothered while they slept, and that their bodies were buried at the foot of the stair which led to their room.

Nearly two hundred years afterwards, in the reign of Charles the Second, while some work was going on in the Tower, the bones of two boys were found. They seemed to be about the age and size of the little Princes. The remains were removed to Westminster Abbey.

Richard did all that he could to make his throne secure. He gave large gifts and high honours to his friends, and he passed some very good laws. But when the people knew that the young Princes were dead, they said that Richard had murdered them, and that therefore he was not fit to be King. Plots were formed against him, and the fear of being murdered caused him to pass sleepless nights.



RICHARD THE THIRD

Richard had been helped to the throne by a powerful nobleman named the Duke of Buckingham, who was so disappointed in not having received a sufficient reward for his services that he turned against the King.

He formed a plan for uniting the Red and White Roses, as the families of Lancaster and York were called. Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward the Fourth, was the heir to the House of York, and Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, was the heir to the House of Lancaster. But before Buckingham could do much harm, he was seized by Richard and beheaded.

Richmond was at this time an exile in Brittany, in the north of France, where he gathered a small army and landed at Milford Haven in Wales. He was soon joined by his friends. Richard met him at Bosworth Field, near Leicester; and though he had a larger force, Richmond gained the victory.

When Richard saw that the battle was lost, he fought with the rage of a wild beast. Rushing among his enemies in search of Henry, he was killed while aiming a blow at the Earl, and fell covered with wounds. This was the last battle that was fought between the rival Roses.

The crown which Richard had worn during the battle was found in a hawthorn bush near by. It was placed on the head of Richmond, who was crowned on Bosworth Field as Henry the Seventh.

Richard was an able man, and in better times might have made a good King. He was cunning and cruel, and ready to stoop to any crime in order to gain his end. He was the last King of the House of York, and the last Plantagenet.



CROWNING OF HENRY VII. ON BOSWORTH FIELD.

## HOUSE OF TUDOR.

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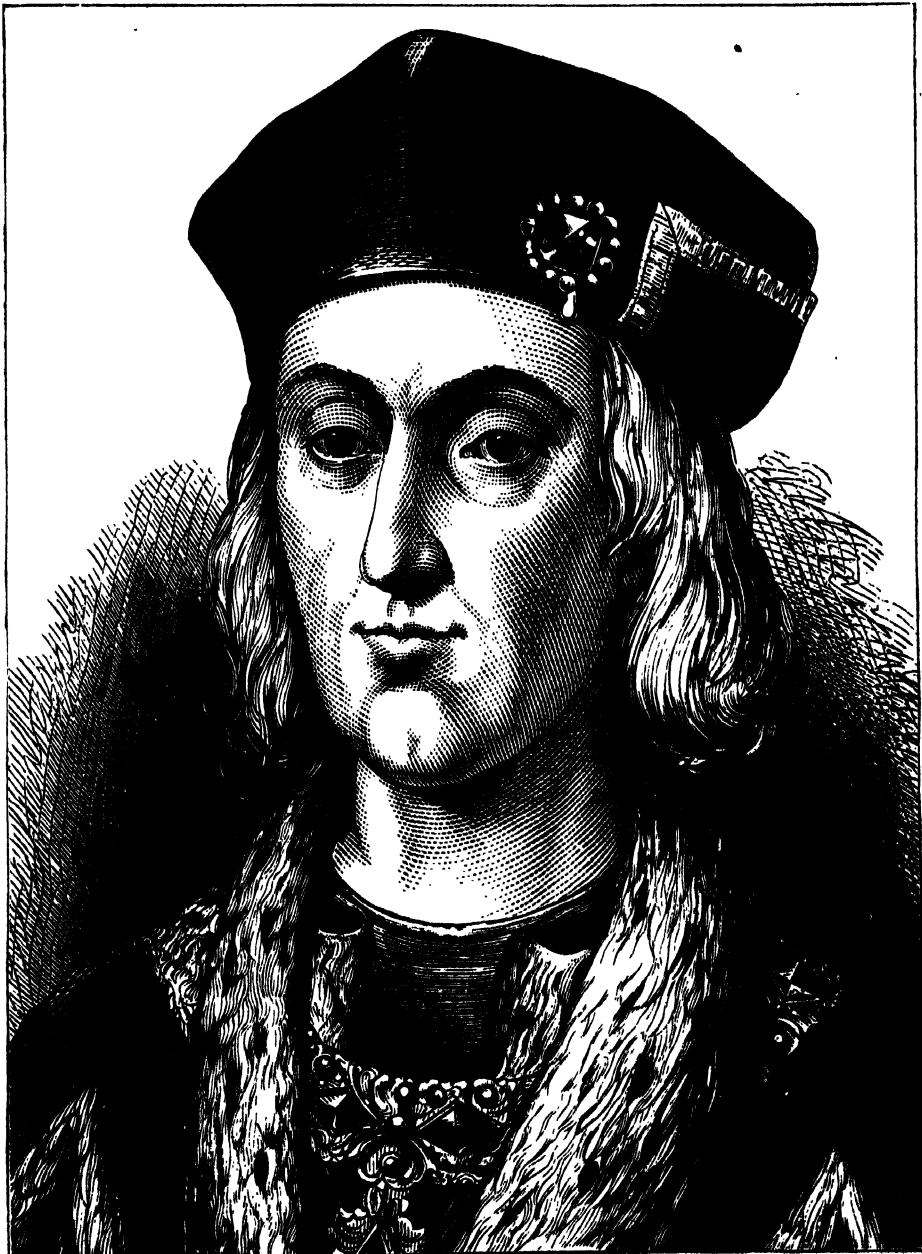
### HENRY VII.

1485 to 1509 : 24 years.

H ENRY THE SEVENTH was a great-great-grandson of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, third son of Edward the Third. He was the first King of the House of Tudor, and the heir of the House of Lancaster.

The year after Henry became King, the marriage between him and Elizabeth, daughter of Edward the Fourth, took place. Those who were present wore red and white roses tied together. This meant that the Houses of York and Lancaster were united, and that the Wars of the Roses were at an end.

There were still some persons living who might cause Henry trouble. The Earl of Warwick, a nephew of Edward the Fourth, was now fifteen years of age. He was at once sent to the Tower, where he remained till 1499, when he was beheaded. Then there came forward others who were not the persons they pretended to be, yet some believed them and took their part against Henry.



HENRY THE SEVENTH.

A baker's son, named Lambert Simnel, was brought forward in Dublin as the Earl of Warwick. This, of course, he could not be, as the young Prince was at that very time a prisoner in the Tower.

Though Henry brought young Warwick out of his prison, many believed what Simnel said. In Ireland he met with so much favour that he was crowned King, under the title of Edward the Sixth. Entering England with an army, he was defeated and taken prisoner. The King then made him a servant-boy in his kitchen.

There were some people who said that the boy Princes had not been murdered in the Tower by Richard the Third. So when a youth named Perkin Warbeck called himself Richard, Duke of York, the younger brother of Edward the Fifth, he was received by many as the "White Rose of England."

He was so like the little Prince that the sister of Edward the Fourth owned him as her nephew. In Scotland King James made no doubt that he was the Duke of York, and married him to the daughter of an earl.

Warbeck was put into the Tower, and to prevent him from again playing the part of the dead Prince, he was made to sit in the stocks and read to the people who gathered round an account of his guilt.

While in the Tower he made a plot for his own escape and for that of the Earl of Warwick. When this was found out, Warbeck was hanged and Warwick was beheaded.



HENRY THE SEVENTH'S CHAPEL IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Henry was very fond of money, and to force as much as possible from his people, two of his ministers, called Empson and Dudley, laid heavy fines on all who offended the King, and sometimes even seized the estates of the rich.

Henry's eldest daughter Margaret married James the Fourth of Scotland, and this afterwards brought about the union of the English and Scottish crowns in 1603.

Arthur, the King's eldest son, married Catherine of Aragon, the daughter of the King of Spain. Arthur died six months after the marriage, and his widow afterwards became the wife of his brother Henry. Another of Henry's daughters married the King of France.

The King died in 1509, leaving, it is said, twelve millions of money. He was buried in the beautiful chapel built by him in Westminster Abbey, which has ever since been called Henry the Seventh's chapel. He was an able ruler; and the death of so many nobles during the Wars of the Roses gave him the chance of making changes.

In this reign, in 1492, Columbus discovered America; and a few years later Vasco de Gama sailed to India round the Cape of Good Hope.

## HENRY VIII.

1509 to 1547 : 38 years.

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H ENRY THE EIGHTH was the second son of Henry the Seventh. He was eighteen years old when he came to the throne. As his father was of the House of Lancaster, and his mother was of the House of York, in him were united the two houses. He married Catherine of Aragon, his brother Arthur's widow.

Henry was fond of show and pleasure, and he soon spent the money his father had saved. To win the good-will of the people, he put to death, on a charge of high treason, Empson and Dudley, who had done so much to make his father rich.

Henry invaded France, and gained the Battle of Spurs, so called because the French horsemen made more use of their spurs in riding away than of their swords in fighting.

The Scots had always been friendly with the French, and while Henry was in France, James the Fourth of Scotland invaded England. He was met by Lord Surrey on the field of Flodden, near the river Till. The Scots were beaten, and the King, with many of his nobles, was killed. There was hardly

a family of high rank in Scotland that had not cause to mourn for some one slain at Flodden.

Thomas Wolsey was the most remarkable man of Henry's reign. From a low rank of life he rose to a position of great power. He was very fond of learning, and soon obtained the favour of the King. Christ Church College at Oxford was founded by him.

Rising step by step, he at length became Archbishop of York, and the Pope made him Cardinal. At last he became Lord Chancellor of England, and for several years he was the most powerful man in the land.

Wolsey, however, was more anxious to do good to the King than to the people, and more anxious to do good to himself than even to the King. His one great desire was to be Pope. He lived in great style, dressed himself in the most costly robes, and had eight hundred followers in his train.

When Henry had been for nearly twenty years the husband of Catherine he became tired of her, and wished to marry Anne Boleyn, one of her maids of honour. This he could not do unless he got a divorce from the Pope, who was the head of the Christian Church.

Henry asked the Pope to say that his marriage with his brother's widow had been unlawful. The Pope would not do so, and this placed Wolsey in a position of great difficulty. In trying to serve two masters, the King and the Pope, he lost the favour of both.



HENRY THE EIGHTH.

The King was so angry with Wolsey that he took from him all his riches and power, and charged him with high treason. While on his way to London, worn-out and broken-hearted, to be tried, Wolsey was taken ill, and died at Leicester Abbey. On his death-bed he said, "Had I served my God as I have served the King, he would not have given me over in my gray hairs."

Henry divorced his wife, Catherine of Aragon, who was the mother of Queen Mary, without the Pope's leave, and married Anne Boleyn. This brought about a quarrel between the King and the Pope.

The English Parliament took the side of the King, and an end was put to the Pope's power in England. Three years afterwards Henry charged Anne Boleyn with bad conduct, and had her beheaded. She was the mother of Queen Elizabeth.

The day after Anne Boleyn was put to death Henry married Jane Seymour; but she died in less than a year, after giving birth to a son, who became Edward the Sixth.

Henry's fourth wife was Anne of Cleves; but not liking her, he put her away with a pension of three thousand a year. The same year he married a fifth wife—Catherine Howard. For some fault about her life before marriage she was beheaded before the end of the year. Shortly afterwards he married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr, who outlived him.

About this time a monk named Martin Luther lived in Germany. He spoke and wrote against the manner in which the Pope ruled the Christian Church. In the end another



WOLSEY DISMISSED BY HENRY.

Church was set up which did not own the Pope. This event is called the Reformation.

At first Henry was against Luther, and in favour of the Pope. On account of this the Pope had given him the title of Defender of the Faith, and the first letters of two of these words, F.D., are still stamped on our coins. But when Henry quarrelled with the Pope, Thomas Cromwell, who had taken Wolsey's place at court, advised the King to become the Head of the English Church, instead of the Pope.

Henry did so, and tried to force every one to own him as Head of the Church. For refusing to do so many were put to death. Among those who suffered were two good and wise men, named Sir Thomas More and Bishop Fisher.

To obtain money, Henry decided to put down all monasteries. He said that the monks and nuns who lived in them had become very wicked. They were therefore turned out of their houses, and Henry seized their lands and money.

The grand monastic buildings were stripped of everything of value, and left in ruins. Bells were melted and cast into cannon, and valuable libraries were torn up and sold to shopkeepers for wrapping-paper.

Even Becket's tomb in Canterbury, after he had been four hundred years in his grave, was broken open, and the rich jewels and rich offerings seized by the King.

Henry did not care much about reforming the Church. All that he wished was to get its power and wealth into his own

hands ; but a good deal was done to put right things which were wrong. Henry's action in the matter helped forward a movement by which at last the Bible was within the reach of the common people, and not confined to the priests alone. John Wyclif had translated it into English one hundred and sixty years before.

In 1526 William Tyndale printed the New Testament and parts of the Old Testament in English. Ten years after, Miles Coverdale printed the whole Bible. A copy of this Bible was chained to a desk in every parish church, that every one who wished might read it.

Henry took the title of King of Ireland in 1541. He became very cruel towards the end of his life. Neither friend nor foe was safe in his power. When he became ill every one was at first afraid to tell him that he was dying. When he knew it he sent for Archbishop Cranmer, but was unable to speak when he arrived.

Henry was vain, fickle, self-willed, and cruel. It is said that seventy thousand persons suffered death during his reign.

He left three children—Mary, daughter of Catherine of Aragon ; Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn ; and Edward, son of Jane Seymour, each of whom afterwards sat on the throne.

## EDWARD VI.

1547 to 1553 : 6 years

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EDWARD THE SIXTH was the son of Henry the Eighth and his third wife, Jane Seymour. He was only ten years old when his father died, and his mother's brother was made Protector, with the title of Duke of Somerset.

The young King was a Protestant, and with the help of Archbishop Cranmer and Bishops Ridley and Latimer much good work was done in building up the new form of the Church in England.

Henry the Eighth had wished that his son should marry Mary Stewart, the young Queen of Scotland, whose father had died when she was only seven days old. The Duke of Somerset now tried to carry out the wishes of the late King ; and as the Scots would not agree, he led an army into their country, and defeated them at the Battle of Pinkie, a place about five miles east of Edinburgh.

To save the young Queen of Scotland from the risk of being carried off to England by force, she was sent by her friends to France, where soon afterwards she married the eldest son of



EDWARD THE SIXTH.

the French King. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth we shall read the sad story of the life of this unhappy Queen.

The King's uncle, the Duke of Somerset, and the Earl of Warwick, who was made Duke of Northumberland, had a struggle for power. In the end Northumberland became the chief adviser of the King, and Somerset was tried for high treason and beheaded.

Among the King's friends was his cousin, Lady Jane Grey. She was the grand-daughter of Mary Tudor, a sister of Henry the Eighth. Brought up with her cousin Edward, she was fond of learning, and could read Latin and Greek books at an early age.

The Duke of Northumberland married her to one of his sons, and then got Edward to make a will leaving her the crown. This the King ought not to have done, for his two half-sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, were alive.

Edward was never strong : he fell into ill-health, had a very bad cough, and it was clearly seen that he could not live long. During his illness Northumberland seldom left him ; and it is said that a woman, whom the Duke had set to nurse him, so treated him as to hasten his end. He died at the age of sixteen. He was good and learned, and would no doubt have become a useful King.



LADY JANE GREY.

## MARY I.

1553 to 1558 : 5 years.

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MARY was the daughter of Henry the Eighth and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Lady Jane Grey was proclaimed Queen against her wish by the Duke of Northumberland. The people were in favour of Mary, and Jane's reign lasted only ten days.

Mary sent Northumberland, Lady Jane, and her husband to the Tower. Northumberland was tried and put to death. Jane and her husband were kept in prison till the next year, when a rising took place among their friends. The leaders in the plot were beheaded, and Lady Jane and her husband suffered with them.

Mary's great wish was to restore the Roman Catholic form of worship in England. To help her in this, she married Philip King of Spain. He belonged to one of the greatest Roman Catholic families in Europe, and Mary thought that with his help she could more easily overcome the difficulties in her way.

The people of England were strongly against the marriage. They feared that it would bring Spanish ways of ruling into



MARY THE FIRST.

the country. When Philip came to England, his manner of treating the people gave great offence.

He soon grew tired of the Queen, and in about a year he left her and returned to Spain. After this he only once saw Mary again, when he visited England for a few days in 1557.

To stamp out the new religion, to believe it was treated as a crime, and those who refused to adopt the Roman Catholic form of worship were put in prison, and nearly three hundred men, women, and children were put to death. Archbishop Cranmer, and Bishops Ridley and Latimer, were burned at the stake.

In the reign of Henry the Sixth, the English lost all their land in France except Calais. To please her husband, Mary went to war with France. The French besieged Calais, and in a week it was taken.

This city had been in the hands of the English since the time of Edward the Third—more than two hundred years. Its loss was a great blow to the Queen, and she said that the word “Calais” would be found written on her heart after death.

The last years of Mary’s reign were sad and gloomy. Her husband did not seem to care for her and kept away, and the people of England hated her. She had no children, and the next Queen would be her half-sister Elizabeth, a Protestant, and the daughter of Anne Boleyn, her mother’s enemy. All these things broke her health, and she died of a slow fever, after an unhappy reign of five years.

## ELIZABETH.

1558 to 1603: 45 years.

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E LIZABETH was the daughter of Henry the Eighth and his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Tired of Mary's gloomy and cruel reign, the people received Elizabeth with open arms and with hearts full of joy. The Protestant form of worship was again used in all the churches of the land.

As soon as Elizabeth came to the throne two laws were passed. The first declared that every one who held any office from the Queen must first own that she was Head of the English Church. The second one declared that the Prayer Book made in Edward the Sixth's reign must be used in every church.

The Roman Catholics could not obey either of these laws without giving up their religion, and many of them were put to death. There were also some Protestants who would not obey them. They were called Puritans, because they wished what they called a pure and simple form of worship. They were fined and imprisoned in great numbers.

You will remember that Henry the Eighth wanted his son Edward to marry Mary, the young Queen of Scotland; and

that, when Edward came to the throne, and his uncle made war on Scotland to force the marriage, Mary was sent away to France for safety, where she married the eldest son of the King of France.

Her married life was very short, for her husband died when she was nineteen years of age. She then returned to Scotland a widow. After this she married her cousin, Lord Darnley, and their son James became the first Union King of Great Britain.

The Roman Catholics looked upon Mary, Queen of Scots, as the true heir to the throne of England. They said that Henry the Eighth had no right to put away Queen Catherine, and therefore, as Elizabeth's mother was not his lawful wife, Elizabeth had no right to the English crown.

Mary's training in France did not make her a good Scottish Queen, and her Roman Catholic religion was not liked by a great many of her people. Quarrels took place ; battles were fought ; and in the end Mary fled to England to ask Elizabeth for help.

The Scottish Queen now suffered for having at one time called herself Queen of England. Elizabeth looked upon her as a rival for her crown, and at once put her in prison, where she was kept for eighteen years.

During that time plot after plot was made by her friends to set her free. At last one was discovered by which it was intended to murder Elizabeth and set Mary on the throne.

The leaders in the plot were put to death, and Mary was



ELIZABETH.

brought to trial. She said that she certainly had desired to be free, but that she had never wished to bring about the death of Elizabeth. She was, however, condemned to die, and was beheaded in Fotheringay Castle in 1587.

Elizabeth's reign was one in which brave and noble deeds were done. A wish to win her favour caused men to go abroad in search of adventures. Among these adventurers was Sir Francis Drake, who crossed the Atlantic to destroy Spanish ships on their way to Spain, bringing treasures of gold and silver from South America.

The Spaniards sent out ships of war to capture Drake on his return voyage ; but instead of coming home by recrossing the Atlantic, he sailed round the south of South America. He then crossed the great Pacific Ocean, sailed past Australia, crossed the Indian Ocean, rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and so returned to England. His voyage lasted three years.

He was the first Englishman who sailed round the world ; and the Queen was so pleased with what he had done that she paid him a visit on board his own ship, the *Golden Hind*, where she knighted him, or gave him the title of Sir. The Queen ordered the ship to be kept in memory of the wonderful voyage it had made ; and when it would no longer hold together, a chair was made of one of the planks, and presented to the University of Oxford.

Sir Walter Ralegh first came under the Queen's notice when he laid his cloak on the muddy ground that she might not wet



MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS.

her feet. He founded the first colony of Englishmen in North America, and called it Virginia, in honour of Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen. Ralegh was the first who brought tobacco and potatoes into this country.

Sir Philip Sidney was a brave and noble soldier. He was badly wounded in battle at Zutphen in Holland. Water was brought to him to drink. When a wounded soldier, who was being carried past, was seen looking eagerly at the vessel, Sir Philip at once gave the water to him, saying, "Thy need is greater than mine."

When Elizabeth came to the throne, Philip of Spain, who had been her half-sister's husband, asked her to marry him, but she refused. Thirty years passed away, and then to punish Elizabeth for refusing him, and to set up the Roman Catholic religion once more in England, Philip fitted out a great fleet and gathered a large army to invade the country.

Philip felt so sure of success that he called his fleet the Invincible Armada. It consisted of one hundred and thirty-two ships, most of them of great size, and carrying more than two thousand cannons. On board the ships there were twenty thousand soldiers, and a large army was gathered on the coast of Flanders, ready to be sent to England on the shortest notice.

The English had at this time very few ships, but when they heard that Philip was getting his Armada ready they quickly built more. All the people in the land, Roman Catholics and Protestants, did their best to help the Queen.

DRAKE ATTACKING THE SPANIARDS.



Lord Howard was in command of the English ships, and when the Armada came up the English Channel in full sail he went out to meet it.

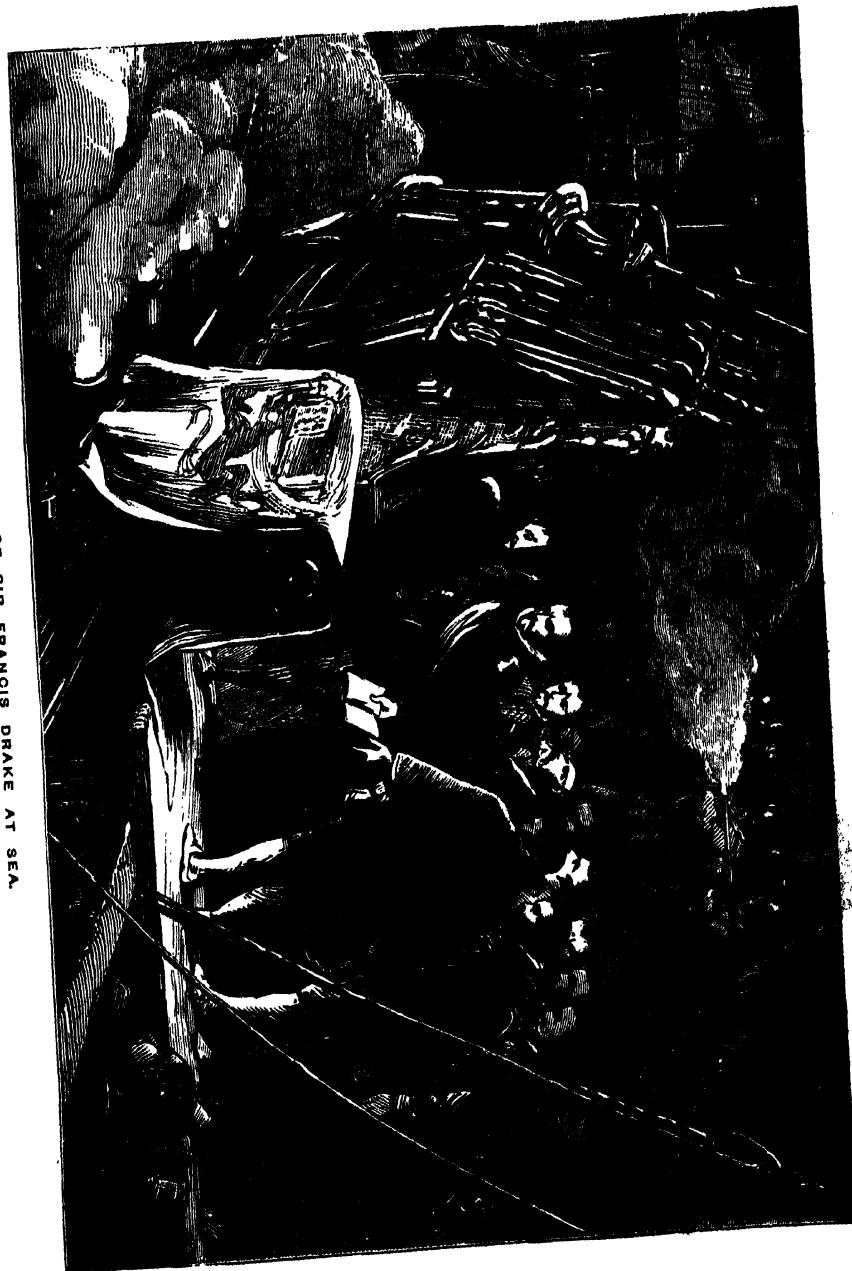
The battle began, and much damage was done to the ships of Spain. The Armada sailed as far as Calais, where it was anchored to take on board the army that had been gathered there.

In the night Lord Howard sent out eight fire-ships, and these threw the Spanish fleet into disorder. The English then attacked them with all their might, destroyed twelve large ships, and put the rest to flight.

Many of the Spanish vessels tried to escape by sailing round Great Britain. Some of them were wrecked on the Orkney Islands, others were lost on the coast of Ireland, and only a few of them ever returned to Spain.

Elizabeth never married. Among her favourites there were two of whom much has been written. The Earl of Leicester stood so high in her favour in the earlier part of her reign that he thought she meant to marry him.

In the latter part of her reign the Earl of Essex was her chief favourite. He was a brave young man, but his rashness often led him astray. The Queen's favour got him out of many of his difficulties; but having taken part in a rising against her, he was sentenced to death. He fully expected the Queen to pardon him; but she did not do so, and he was beheaded in the Tower.



BURIAL OF SIR FRANCIS DRAKE AT SEA.

The close of Elizabeth's life was lonely and sad. She was now seventy years of age, her health was not good, many of her old friends were dead, and she had no one to comfort and cheer her life.

The death of the Earl of Essex is said to have caused her a great deal of trouble, and at last she lay for days and nights on pillows on the floor, refusing to take either food or medicine. At length she fell into a deep sleep, out of which she never awoke. With her ended the House of Tudor.

Elizabeth was a clever woman and a good Queen. She gathered round her the best men of the country to help her in ruling the land. Among these was Sir William Cecil, afterwards Lord Burleigh, who was the Queen's chief adviser during the greater part of her reign.

Some of the greatest English writers lived during Elizabeth's reign. It was then that William Shakespeare wrote many of his plays, and Edmund Spenser composed the "Faerie Queene." Other writers were Lord Bacon and Sir Philip Sidney.

## ELIZABETH AT TILBURY.

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To oppose the landing of the Spaniards, an army under the Earl of Leicester gathered at Tilbury, a fort on the left bank of the Thames, about twenty miles below London. Elizabeth reviewed the troops, saying, with true Tudor spirit, "Though I have but the feeble body of a woman, I have the heart of a king, and of a King of England too."

Let them come, come never so proudly,  
O'er the green waves in tall array ;  
Silver clarions menacing loudly,  
" All the Spains " on their pennons gay ;  
High on deck of their gilded galleys  
Our light sailors they scorn below :—  
We will scatter them, plague, and shatter them,  
Till their flag hauls down to the foe !

For our oath we swear  
By the name we bear,  
By England's Queen, and England free and fair,—  
Hers ever, and hers still, come life, come death :  
God save Elizabeth !.....

Drake and Frobisher, Hawkins and Howard,  
Ralegh, Cavendish, Cecil, and Brooke,

Hang like wasps by the flag-ships towered,  
 Sting their way through the thrice-piled oak :—  
 Let them range their seven-mile crescent,  
 Giant galleons, canvas wide !  
 Ours will harry them, board, and carry them,  
 Plucking the plumes of the Spanish pride.  
 For our oath we swear  
 By the name we bear,  
 By England's Queen, and England free and fair,—  
 Hers ever, and hers still, come life, come death :  
 God save Elizabeth !

Has God risen in wrath and scattered ?  
 Have his tempests smote them in scorn ?  
 Past the Orcades, dumb and tattered,  
 'Mong sea-beasts do they drift forlorn ?  
 We were as lions hungry for battle ;  
 God has made our battle his own !  
 God has scattered them, sunk, and shattered them :  
 Give the glory to him alone !  
 While our oath we swear  
 By the name we bear,  
 By England's Queen, and England free and fair,—  
 Hers ever, and hers still, come life, come death :  
 God save Elizabeth !

F. T. PALGRAVE.

## H O U S E   O F   S T E W A R T.

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### JAMES I.

1603 to 1625: 22 years.

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JAMES THE FIRST was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and her second husband, Lord Darnley. He had been King of Scotland for thirty-six years before he became King of Great Britain.

To understand how the King of Scotland had a right to the English throne, you must remember the marriage of Henry the Seventh's daughter to James the Fourth of Scotland in 1503.

During the hundred years that had passed since that marriage Henry the Eighth and his three children had reigned and died, leaving no one to come after them. The crown then fell to the Scottish branch of the family, of which James was the heir.

When James became King, he tried to force all the people of England and Scotland to worship according to the forms of the Church of England. The Roman Catholics were very

angry at this, for they had expected that the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, would favour their religion.

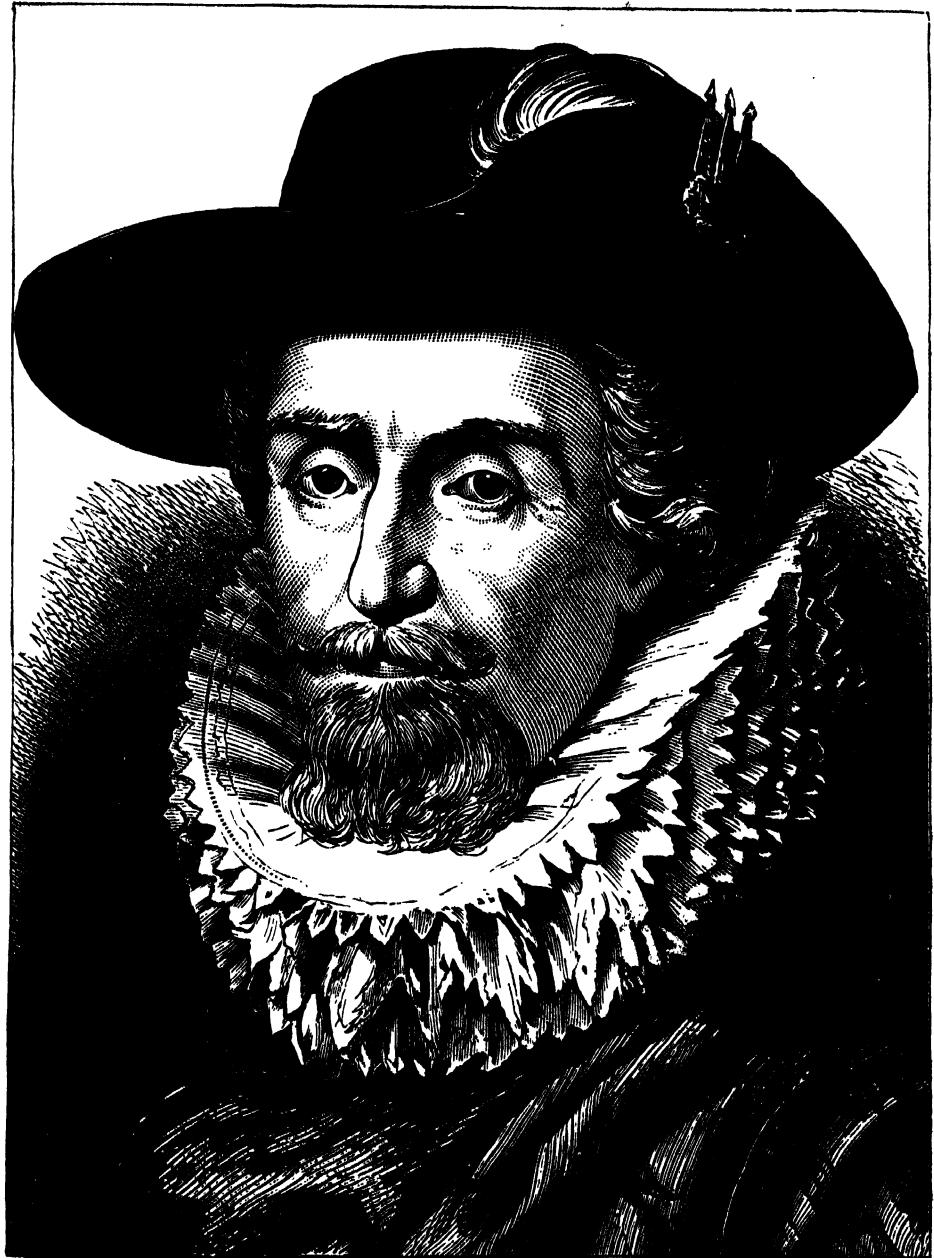
After a time, James called together a number of the High Church clergy and Puritan ministers to try to settle the differences that existed between them. The meeting was held at Hampton Court Palace, near London, and is known as the



ARREST OF GUY FAWKES.

**Hampton Court Conference.** This conference settled none of the differences between the two parties, but it had one grand result : it was there that King James ordered a new translation of the Bible into English to be made.

There had been more than one English Bible before this time ; but the language had changed a good deal, and many of



JAMES THE FIRST.

the words were old and not easily understood. A number of clergymen spent seven years in carrying out the work.

Some of the Roman Catholics formed a plot by which they intended to blow up the King and the Parliament with gunpowder on the 5th of November. Thirty-six barrels were placed in the cellar below the House of Lords, and covered over with coal and sticks.

Everything was ready, and Guy Fawkes was there to fire the gunpowder at the right moment. The plot was found out in time, and many of those who had taken part in it were put to death.

Soon after James came to the throne, Sir Walter Ralegh was put into prison for taking part in a plot against the King. He was kept there for thirteen years, and then failing to find a gold mine in South America, of which he had told the King, he was beheaded in 1618.

James said that God had given him the right to be King, and that he could do as he pleased, without regard to the wishes of the people. He was very angry when the Parliament told him that he could make laws only with their consent; and they refused to give him as much money as he asked for.

He raised taxes, or forced the people to pay money, in ways which were against the law. He also laid heavy fines and sold titles. This brought about a quarrel between the King and Parliament, which in the end caused his son, Charles the First, to lose his throne and his head.



HAMPTON COURT CONFERENCE.

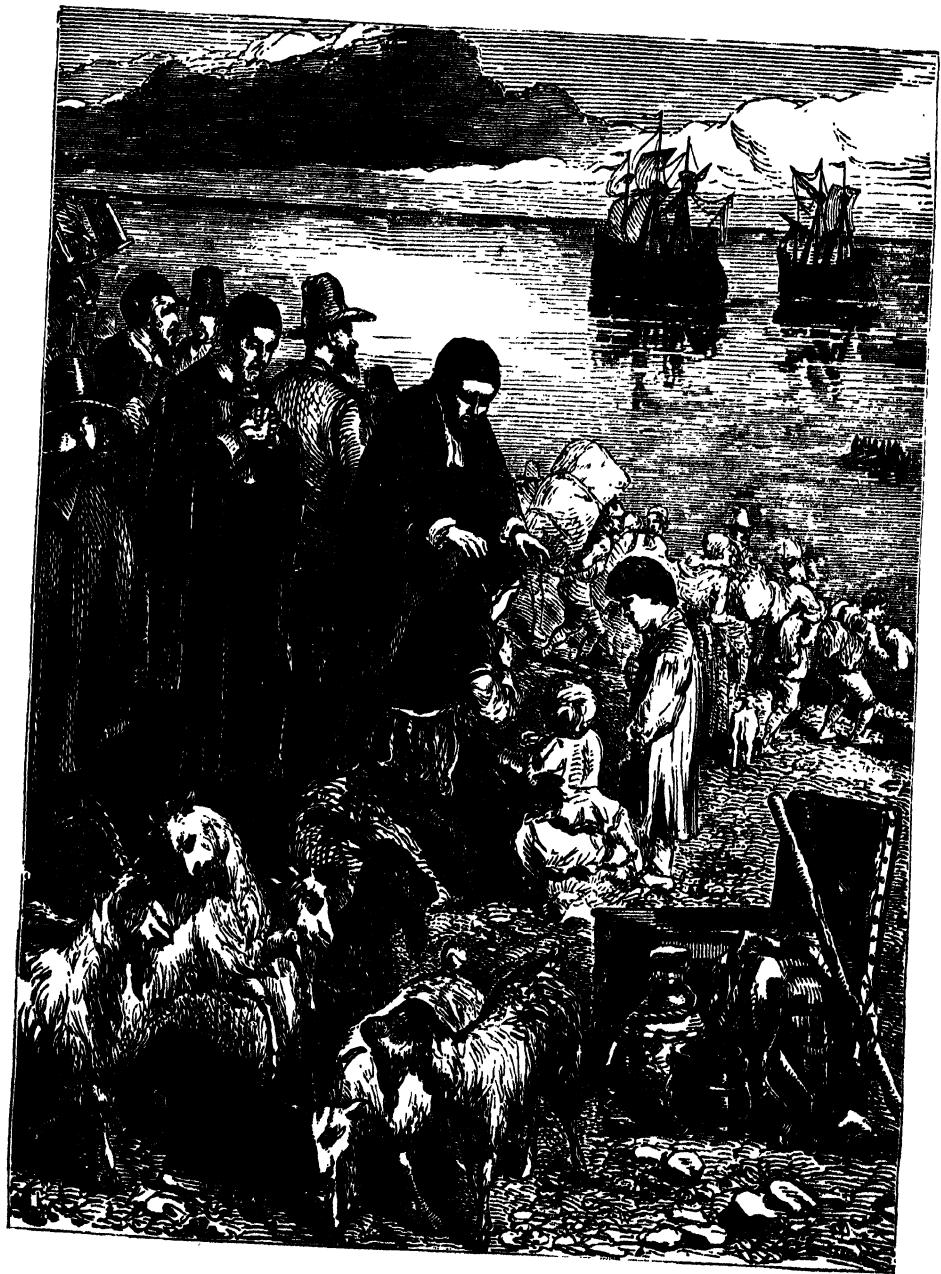
Not only did the Roman Catholics complain about the treatment they received, but the Puritans found themselves no better off. They were members of the Church of England, but they wanted a simpler and a purer form of worship than that used in the Church.

The King treated them so badly, because they refused to worship as he wished them, that a number of them made up their minds to leave the country. They wanted to find a home in a land where they could worship God in their own way.

A band of them therefore sailed for America, in a ship called the *Mayflower*, in 1620. They were called the Pilgrim Fathers, and were the founders of the State of New England, which has since grown into the United States of America.

James died in the fifty-ninth year of his age. He had three children—Henry, Elizabeth, and Charles. Henry died before his father; Elizabeth married the German Prince from whom Queen Victoria is descended; and Charles was the next King.

James was a good scholar, and was vain of his learning; but this did not make him a wise King. He wished to have his own way in everything. His desire for power, and his willingness to be led by favourites, caused him to make many mistakes.



THE PILGRIMS LEAVING ENGLAND.

## CHARLES I.

1625 to 1649: 24 years.

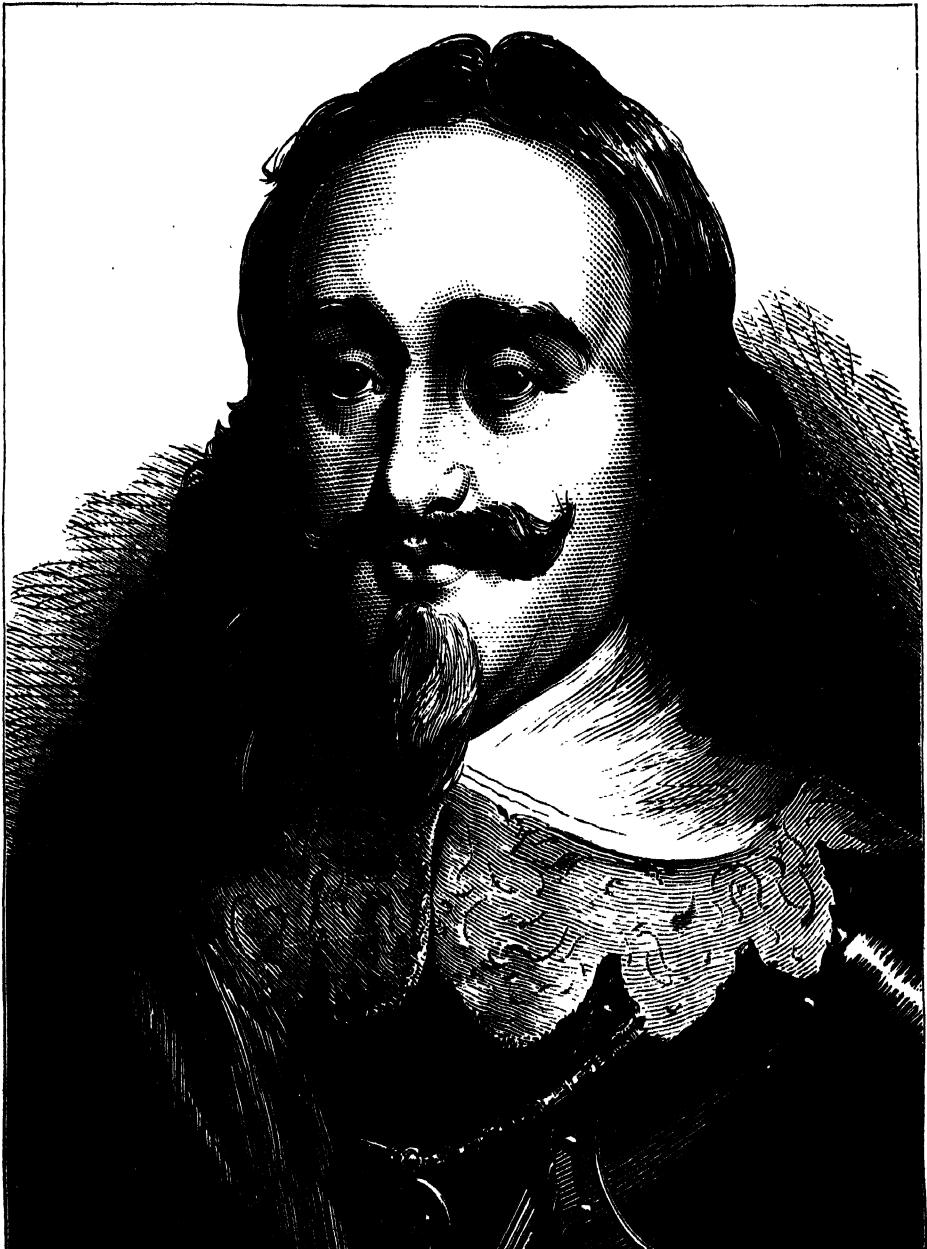
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CHARLES THE FIRST was the second son of James the First. He became King at the age of twenty-five. He married Henrietta-Maria, daughter of the King of France. His father had intended him to marry a Spanish Princess; but the marriage was broken off, and a war with Spain began two years before James died.

Charles had been taught by his father that a King could do as he pleased. His reign was one long struggle for power between himself and his Parliament.

Charles called Parliament together in 1625, to ask for money for the Spanish war which was going on. Instead of giving him as much money as he wanted, the Parliament complained of the power that he had given to the Duke of Buckingham, an old favourite of his father's.

Buckingham went out with an army and a fleet to help the French Protestants, who were besieged on the island of La Rochelle by the French Roman Catholics. His army was driven back with great loss, and he returned home. Soon after, he was murdered at Portsmouth by an officer.



CHARLES THE FIRST.

When Charles again asked Parliament for money, they made him promise to raise no more taxes without their consent, to keep no one in prison without a trial, and to lodge no soldiers in private houses against the will of their owners. This was made into a law called the Petition of Right.

Charles made these promises only to get the money he wanted. He then broke the law; and when the Commons complained he sent nine of the members to prison.

Charles visited Scotland in 1633, and was crowned at Edinburgh. His object in going to Scotland was to establish Episcopacy—that is, a Church in which the chief clergy are bishops. This the people resisted, and he lost the favour both of the people and of the Scottish Parliament. In 1637 a Service Book was ordered to be used in the Scottish Church. It is said that when the Dean of Edinburgh began to read prayers from it in St. Giles's Church, an old woman named Jenny Geddes at once threw at his head the stool on which she had been sitting.

One of the ways in which the King raised money, when Parliament refused to give him what he asked, was by making the people pay ship-money. Long ago, those who lived near the sea had to pay money to provide ships to defend the shores in time of war.

Charles, in time of peace, made not only those who lived near the sea, but also those who lived in other parts of the country, pay this tax. John Hampden, who lived in Buckinghamshire, would not pay his share of the tax. He was tried by

the King's judges, who said that he must pay. The people took the side of Hampden, and the quarrel between the King and the people became more bitter every day.

A great body of the people were on the side of the Parliament; but a great many of the nobles and gentry took the King's part. The King's men were called Cavaliers, from the fineness of their dress and their skill in fighting. Those who took the side of the Parliament were called Roundheads, because they cut their hair close to their heads. They were chiefly shopkeepers and farmers.

War broke out in the country in 1642. The first battle was fought at Edgehill, in Warwickshire, but neither side gained a victory. Next year, while the King was trying to take Gloucester, he was defeated in the first Battle of Newbury.

An officer on the side of the Parliament saw where the weakness of their army lay, and he made up his mind to put this right. His name was Oliver Cromwell; and in a short time he so trained his men that none could stand against them. They were called Cromwell's Ironsides.

In 1644 the Scots crossed into England and joined the English army. Together they gained the Battle of Marston Moor. A second battle at Newbury, and another at Naseby, ended in the defeat of the King. After this he was not able to fight any more. He fled to Oxford, and afterwards gave himself up to the Scottish army.

When the Scots were going back to their own country they



LAST MEETING BETWEEN KING CHARLES AND HIS CHILDREN.

gave Charles up, by his own desire, to the Parliament. Before doing so they tried to get a promise that no harm should happen to him.

The greater number of the people did not want to get rid of the King; they only wished to make him rule according to the

law. There were others, however, who thought that the country could be better ruled without the King.

Among these was Cromwell ; and in the end they made up their minds to bring the King to trial for breaking the law and forcing the country into war.

The court which tried the King was one formed for the purpose, and called the High Court of Justice. Charles refused to be tried by this court : he said that the only court that could try him was the House of Lords ; but his judges would not hear him. The trial went on for seven days, and on the eighth he was sentenced to death.

King Charles was beheaded in front of Whitehall Palace, before a crowd of people, on a cold winter day, when the ground was covered with snow. After his head had been struck off it was held up by the headsman, who called out, "This is the head of a traitor !"

Charles was in many ways a good man, but he was a bad King. The lesson his father had taught him about the rights of Kings was his ruin. Two of his sons, Charles and James, became King after him ; and his daughter Mary, who married the Prince of Orange, was the mother of William the Third.

## OLIVER CROMWELL.

1649 to 1660 : 11 years.



AFTER the death of the King, Parliament chose a Council to rule the country. Bradshaw was the president, and John Milton, the poet, secretary ; but Oliver Cromwell and his soldiers were the real rulers of the land.

The King still had friends in Ireland and Scotland who wished to make his son Charles King. Cromwell went to Ireland to put them down. This he did in the most cruel manner, killing many thousands.

Charles was crowned King in Scotland, and Cromwell marched against him there. He met the Scots near Dunbar, where he defeated them. Charles, however, gathered together the remains of his army, and boldly marched into England. He was followed by Cromwell to Worcester, and there defeated.

Charles was in great danger from Cromwell's soldiers, who were looking everywhere for him. After hiding for a night in an oak-tree, beneath which he saw them passing, he escaped to the sea-shore in the dress of a workman. There he got on board a vessel, and reached France.

At this time the Dutch had a great many ships, in which



OLIVER CROMWELL

they carried goods from one country to another. In this way they acted as carriers of the trade of Europe. A law was made in this country that no goods should come into England except in English ships, or in those of the people from whom the goods came.

The Dutch did not like this law, as it would take a good deal of trade out of their hands ; and war broke out on the sea. The Dutch had a famous sailor called Van Tromp, who gained a victory over the English ships ; but Admiral Blake defeated him soon afterwards, and the war came to an end.

Cromwell and Parliament could not agree ; so he went to the House with three hundred soldiers, and putting out all the members, he told them to go and make way for honester men. Then he locked the door, and put the key in his pocket.

A new Parliament was formed, called Barebone's Parliament, after the name of one of its leading members ; but it too was soon sent away by Cromwell.

The army now made Cromwell Lord Protector of England. He was to be general by land and by sea ; and a Council of twenty-one persons was to help him to govern the land.

Cromwell ruled England so well that there was not only peace at home, but his power was felt in other countries as well. A victory over the Dutch made England "Mistress of the Sea."

Though Cromwell was King in all but name, he was not happy. Plot after plot was laid against him. A book was written, called "Killing no Murder," which said that his death

was needed for the good of the country. On reading this he was filled with fear. He wore armour under his clothes, and carried pistols with him everywhere. He never slept more than three nights in the same room.

At length his health gave way, and he died at the age of fifty-eight. He was in many ways a great man, and one of the ablest rulers England ever had. He was fond of power, and knew well how to use it.

Cromwell's son Richard became Lord Protector on his father's death ; but he was not able to fill his father's place. He knew this himself, and he soon gave up his high position, and returned to his farm in the country.

General Monk, who was at the head of the army in Scotland, then marched to London. A new Parliament that had been called to settle what was to be done sent a message to Charles, asking him to return to his country and wear the crown. This he gladly agreed to do, and he entered London on the 29th of May 1660.

## CHARLES II.

1660 to 1685 : 25 years.

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CHARLES THE SECOND was the son of Charles the First. He entered London on his thirtieth birthday, the 29th of May. The people gave him a hearty welcome. Bells were rung, and flowers strown on the road.

Some of those who had taken part in the trial of Charles the First were put to death. The bodies of Cromwell and of other leaders were taken out of their graves and hanged.

Charles soon showed that he cared for nothing but pleasure. He kept about his court many worthless persons who enriched themselves at the expense of the country.

While Cromwell was Lord Protector, the form of worship used in the Church of England had not been allowed. Charles restored this, and laws were passed to compel every one to worship in this way.

Many of those who would not obey these laws were sent to prison. One of these was John Bunyan, who lay for twelve years in Bedford Jail, where he wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

A terrible sickness, called the Great Plague, broke out in London. In one summer one hundred thousand persons died.



CHARLES THE SECOND

Every one who could leave the city did so. Shops were closed, and grass grew in the streets. Scarcely a sound was heard except that of the dead-cart going its round from house to house to carry off the bodies of the dead.



THE DEAD-CART.

In the following year a great part of London was burned down. Hundreds of streets and thousands of houses were destroyed. Yet this awful fire did great good by destroying the crowded, dirty houses in which the plague had been.

The same year as the plague a war began with the Dutch. It was badly managed, and the King spent the money he had got for it upon other things. A victory was gained at first; but two years after, the Dutch fleet sailed up the Thames and

burned many ships. This is the only time that an enemy's guns have been heard by the people of London.

Before this time Kings had often put persons who had offended them into prison, and kept them there for years, and sometimes for life. An Act was passed which made it unlawful for any one to be kept in prison beyond a certain time without having a fair trial.

Many people in the country were much troubled because the King and Queen had no children, and the King's brother, James, who was the next heir to the throne, was a Roman Catholic. The King had a son, the Duke of Monmouth; but he could not reign, because his mother was not the King's lawful wife.

An attempt was made to pass a law to prevent James from coming to the throne. When this failed, a plot was formed to kill the King's brother, and to force Charles to make Monmouth his heir.

The leaders in the plot had no wish to harm the King; but others had made up their minds to shoot Charles rather than allow his brother to ascend the throne. This was called the Rye House Plot. It was found out, and many of those who had taken part in it were put to death.

Charles died after a week's illness. He had acted as a Protestant all his life, but on his death-bed he said that he was a Roman Catholic. He was a bad, selfish man, and so fond of pleasure that the people called him the "Merry Monarch."

## JAMES II.

1685 to 1688 : 3 years.

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JAMES THE SECOND was the brother of Charles the Second, and son of Charles the First. We have seen that many of his people did not wish him to ascend the throne; but within an hour of his brother's death he took his place as King.

James was a Roman Catholic, but he promised to uphold the Church of England, and to obey the law in all things. It was not long before he began to break his promises, and plots were formed against him.

Since the Rye House Plot, in 1683, the Duke of Monmouth had been in Holland. There he met with the Earl of Argyle. They made a plot to dethrone James. Argyle was to lead the rebels in Scotland, and Monmouth was to head the rising in England.

Argyle went to Scotland and gathered together a small army, which was soon defeated. He was then taken prisoner, and beheaded in Edinburgh. Monmouth landed on the south coast of England, and was soon at the head of six thousand men.



JAMES THE SECOND.

He took the title of King, and marched to meet the royal army at Sedgemoor. He was defeated, and had to flee for his life. He wandered about for two days, when he was found by means of bloodhounds, and was taken before the King, who ordered him to be put to death on Tower Hill. The Battle of Sedgemoor was the last ever fought on English ground.

James was very angry with those who had helped Monmouth in his attempt to get the throne. Those who had been taken prisoners at the Battle of Sedgemoor were cruelly treated, and hanged by scores on the sign-post of an inn at Taunton.

Judge Jeffreys was sent to try those who were thought to have favoured Monmouth. In one month he hanged more than three hundred persons, and sold eight hundred more as slaves to the West Indies.

Though James had promised not to change the form of worship used in the Church of England, he now began to break his promise. He had made up his mind that England should again become a Roman Catholic country. He set aside the law which prevented Roman Catholics from entering the army, and ordered the clergy to say from their pulpits that all might worship as they pleased.

Seven bishops of the Church of England wrote a letter, called a petition, to the King, in which they told him that he was asking them to do an unlawful thing, and that therefore they could not obey him.

James was angry with the bishops, and he sent them all to the Tower. After a week they were brought to trial, when the judges set them free, for they said that the bishops had done no wrong.

This made James more angry than he had been before, and he made up his mind to force the people to do his will. It seemed as if he had forgotten that his father had been beheaded for going against the wishes of the people; for he doubled his army, and was preparing for war, when the whole land rose against him.

The people saw that the King could no longer be trusted, and they made up their minds to bring his reign to an end. They did not wish to put him to death, so they wrote to William, Prince of Orange, who had married the King's eldest daughter, Mary, to come and take the crown. William agreed to come, and all England declared in his favour.

Left almost without a friend, James could do nothing to prevent the crown from passing from him. With his wife and only son he was glad to get safely out of the country and take refuge in France, where he spent the rest of his life.

James may be said to have thrown away his crown by his own foolish and reckless conduct. He thought he could rule a free people as he liked, and without any regard for their wishes. The mistake cost him his throne, and might have cost him his life. He had two daughters, Mary and Anne, and one son, James, who was called "the Pretender."

## WILLIAM III. AND MARY II.

1689 to 1702: 13 years.

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WILLIAM THE THIRD, Prince of Orange, was the son of Mary, daughter of Charles the First. He was therefore both the nephew and the son-in-law of the late King, James the Second.

After James had left the country, Parliament declared that he was no longer King. They said that William and Mary should be King and Queen of England, but that during the life of Mary William alone should rule. If they had no children, the crown was then to go to Mary's sister Anne.

It was also written down and agreed to by the King and the Parliament that he must rule according to law, and that he had no right to alter or break a law any more than had the poorest of his people. It was now clear that the English would not have a King to reign over them who was not willing to give up his own wishes for the good of the country.

It was not long before the friends of James, both at home and in France, began to try to put him back on the throne. He landed in Ireland with French soldiers, and the Irish, who were Roman Catholics, joined him in great numbers.



WILLIAM THE THIRD.

The town of Londonderry, in the north of Ireland, stood out for William for more than three months, during which the people suffered greatly from want of food. James did his utmost to take the town. At length English ships forced their way up the river with supplies of food for the starving people.

In the following year William placed himself at the head of his soldiers in Ireland, and defeated James in the Battle of the Boyne. James went back to France, and William soon ended the war and returned to England.

James had friends in Scotland who lost no time in trying to help him. They were called Jacobites, or followers of James. After their commander was killed at the Battle of Killiecrankie, they went back to their homes and gave up the war.

Many of the Highland clans had not yet submitted to William. In August 1691, an order was issued that before the end of the year all the chiefs should take an oath owning William as King. All obeyed but Macdonald of Glencoe, who, delayed by stormy weather, was a day or two behind the time.

William signed an order for the destruction of the clan. Soldiers were marched into Glencoe. They pretended that they came as friends, and lived for fifteen days among the Macdonalds, by whom they were well treated.

Suddenly on a dark winter morning, when a snowstorm was raging among the hills, the soldiers turned on the doomed Macdonalds and shot them down in their houses. Thirty-eight



MARY THE SECOND.

persons were slain, and others fled half-naked to the hills and died in the snow. This was called the Massacre of Glencoe.

The French King did all that he could to help James to get back his throne. He and William had not been friends for some time, and when William was in Ireland the King of France sent a fleet and army to invade England ; but the English people stood so well together that little harm was done.

The French again tried to invade England in 1692, but their fleet was defeated at Cape La Hogue. At length the French King agreed not to give further help to James, and to own William as King of Great Britain.

When Mary died the King was filled with grief. He had never been much liked by the English people. Mary was their favourite, and after her death they looked upon him as a stranger. This troubled him so much that he sometimes spoke of giving up the crown and going back again to Holland.

Eight years after Mary died, William fell from his horse and broke his collar-bone. Within a fortnight he died. He was a wise man and an able ruler. The British people never understood him properly. He was a silent man, and kept himself too much apart from them. • He left no children.

## ANNE.

1702 to 1714: 12 years.

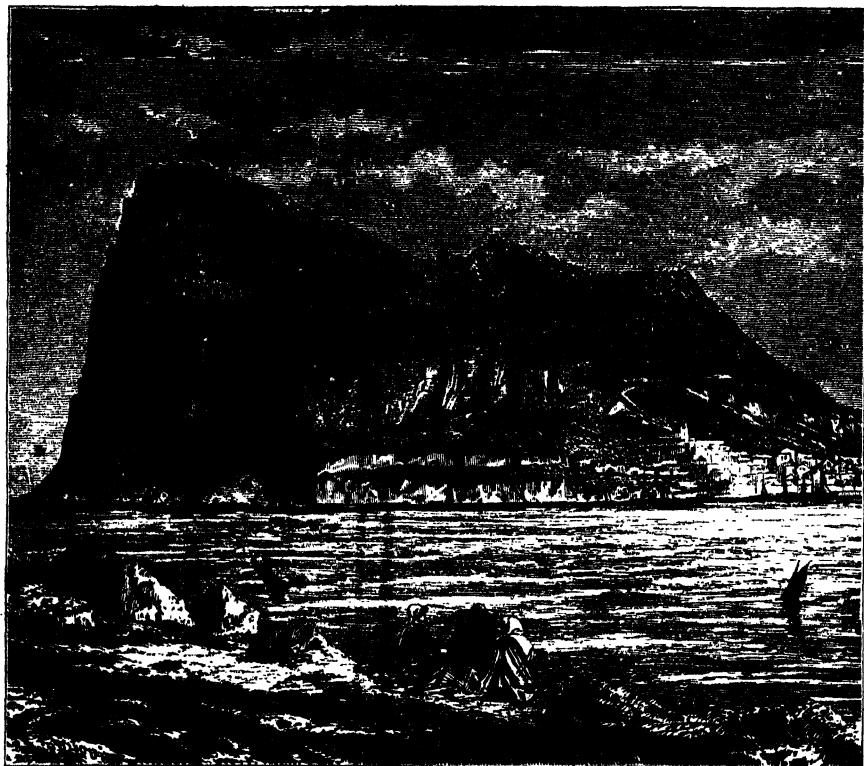
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ANNE was the second daughter of James the Second and the sister of Queen Mary. She was the last of the Stewarts who sat on the British throne. She was married to Prince George of Denmark; but he took no part in ruling the country.

Sarah Jennings, Duchess of Marlborough, who held the office of Mistress of the Robes, was a great favourite of the Queen's. This lady obtained such a power over her royal companion that she decided everything, from questions of State to the colour of a ribbon. It became a common saying that "Queen Anne reigns, but Queen Sarah governs."

A war with France, for which William had made ready, was begun soon after Anne came to the throne. It continued during the greater part of Anne's reign.

The British commander was the famous Duke of Marlborough, who gained many victories. He was the husband of the Queen's favourite. As a reward he received an estate, on which a splendid house was built for him, named Blenheim House, from a great battle which he had won.



GIBRALTAR.

During the time that Marlborough was winning his victories, the war had also been going on in Spain. In the earlier part of the war the British fleet took Gibraltar from Spain. It is a great rock and fortress, standing at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. It has belonged to Great Britain ever since, and is looked upon as a place of great value. It is called "the Key to the Mediterranean," because it commands the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.



ANNE.

In this reign England and Scotland were united more closely than they had ever been before.

One hundred years had passed away since James of Scotland had become the first King of the British Islands. All this time England and Scotland had been under the same Kings and Queens, but each country had its own Parliament.

The English Parliament, chosen by the English people to make laws for them, sat in London. The Scottish Parliament, chosen by the Scottish people to make laws for them, sat in Edinburgh.

The English Rose and the Scottish Thistle were joined together under one ruler, but the two countries were often not very friendly with each other.

In Queen Anne's reign it seemed as if they would soon be at war, they had so many things about which they could not agree.

The Scots said that they were not allowed to trade freely with England and France. Sometimes Scottish ships were seized by the English, and then the Scots would seize English ships in return.

Queen Anne's children all died before their mother, and the English Parliament asked the Scottish Parliament to agree with them in choosing the same King for both countries at her death.

The Scottish Parliament said that when Anne died, as she had no child to succeed her, they would choose a King for

themselves. They did not want to be ruled by the King who also ruled England.

The wise men of both countries were filled with fear and sorrow when they saw the turn things were taking. They knew that two countries so placed on one island would be stronger and richer if they could agree to form one kingdom.

To settle the matter, it was agreed that there should no longer be a Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh and an English Parliament in London, but that there should be a British Parliament in London for both countries.

To the British Parliament both England and Scotland were to send members, who should make any new laws needed for Great Britain. Thus the two countries would be under the same Parliament, as well as under the same King.

Each country was allowed to keep the laws it had at the time of the Union, and the form of religion it liked best, and in this way the Rose and the Thistle were made one, never again to be put asunder.

Anne died suddenly after two days' illness. She was not a great Queen, but she was a good woman, and she was often called the "good Queen Anne." She allowed herself in all things to be guided by Parliament as to what was best for the country.

## HOUSE OF HANOVER.

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### GEORGE I.

1714 to 1727: 13 years.

QUEEN ANNE was the last Stewart who sat on the British throne. The Stewarts were not all dead. The son of James the Second, who had been driven from the throne, was alive.

He was the half-brother of Queen Anne, but, like his father, he was a Roman Catholic, and Parliament had made a law in the reign of William the Third that no Roman Catholic should sit on the British throne.

So when Anne died the crown was given to George, King of Hanover, who was a Protestant. Now Hanover was a small country in Germany, and you may ask what claim its ruler had to the British throne.

George of Hanover got his right to the throne in the same way that James of Scotland did—by a marriage between an English princess and one of his family.

Elizabeth, the daughter of James the First, married the



GEORGE THE FIRST.

ruler of Bohemia, their daughter married the ruler of Hanover, and George was Elizabeth's grandson. When he became King of the United Kingdom he could not speak the English language.

A number of people thought that Anne's half-brother James, called "the Pretender," should have been made King. Many Scotsmen thought so, because James was a Stewart and one of the Scottish royal family.

There was a rising of the Jacobites in Scotland to take the throne from George and to give it to James. The rising was put down, and some of its leaders were put to death. Because it took place in 1715 it is known as "the 'Fifteen."

The South Sea Scheme was the name given to a plan which was formed for helping the Government to get the large sums of money it needed every year. A company was formed to carry on trade with the South Seas, and they agreed to pay the Government a large sum of money to prevent any one else from taking part in this trade.

To persuade the people to join the Company, stories were told of the great riches that were to be found in the islands near South America. Thousands of people lent all the money they had to the Company, in the hope of growing suddenly rich.

The people went mad about it, and some even paid £1,000 for a share that had at first cost only £100. But the stories were not true. The money got by the Company was spent, and those who had lent it lost all they had.

So many people had lost all their money in the South Sea Bubble that something had to be done to help them. Sir Robert Walpole, the King's chief adviser, did all he could to help these poor people.

He made those who had had most to do with the Bubble scheme sell off their houses and lands to pay those whose money they had taken. Some of the ministers of the Government had to give up their places for having taken money from the founders of the Company. The Government also helped, and in this way the loss was, after a time, got over.

While the King was on a visit to Hanover he fell ill, and died the next day, at the age of sixty-seven. The English people did not care much for him, as he could neither read nor write their language.

George and his wife had not been good friends. He used her very harshly, and kept her for thirty-three years shut up in a castle in Hanover. Even her own children were not allowed to see her. She died there only a few months before him. They had one son, who succeeded his father.

## GEORGE II.

1727 to 1760: 33 years.

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GEORGE THE SECOND was the son of George the First. He was forty-four years of age when he became King. His wife's name was Caroline, and she gave him much help in ruling the country. Sir Robert Walpole continued to be chief minister for the first fifteen years of this reign.

A good deal of the income of the Government comes from money paid by those who bring certain goods into the country. At this time many persons tried to do this without making any payment. They were called smugglers.

In Scotland, two such men were caught, and sentenced to be hanged in Edinburgh. One of them helped the other to escape. The mob of Edinburgh were so pleased with this that they threw stones at the hangman and the soldiers. Captain Porteous, who commanded the soldiers, told them to fire on the crowd, some of whom were killed.

For this, Porteous was tried and was sentenced to death; but hearing that the King meant to pardon him, the mob broke into the prison, dragged him out, and hanged him on a pole.



GEORGE THE SECOND.

The King was very angry, and he made the city pay a large sum of money.

The Spaniards ruled over a large part of South America. To keep the trade of this part of the world in their own hands, they ill-treated the sailors of British ships.

This ended in war, in the course of which Lord Anson took a Spanish ship containing a large amount of gold. He then returned to England in the same way that Drake did in the reign of Queen Elizabeth—by sailing round the world.

Another attempt was made to bring back the Pretender. His son, Charles Edward, called “Bonnie Prince Charlie,” landed in Scotland, and the Highlanders gathered round him. At Prestonpans, near Edinburgh, they defeated the King’s soldiers. Charles then marched to Edinburgh, and stayed for a time in Holyrood Palace, the home of the Stewart Kings.

At length the Prince set out for London to seize the crown. During the weeks that he had been staying at Holyrood Palace, King George had been able to collect an army.

Unable to proceed further than Derby, the Prince returned with his followers to Scotland. They made their last stand at Culloden, where in less than an hour they were defeated by the King’s soldiers. To avoid being taken prisoner, Charles had to hide himself.

Although a large reward was offered, none of his friends would betray him, and he at length got safely away to France. Amongst those who helped him to escape was a lady named

Flora Macdonald, who risked her own life to protect him. The Stewarts never again tried to get back their throne.

War between England and France had often taken place in the past on account of the lands held in France by English Kings. The British and the French were not only neighbours at home, but they also met in other parts of the world. In the reign of George the Second, a great war took place to settle who should rule in America and in India.

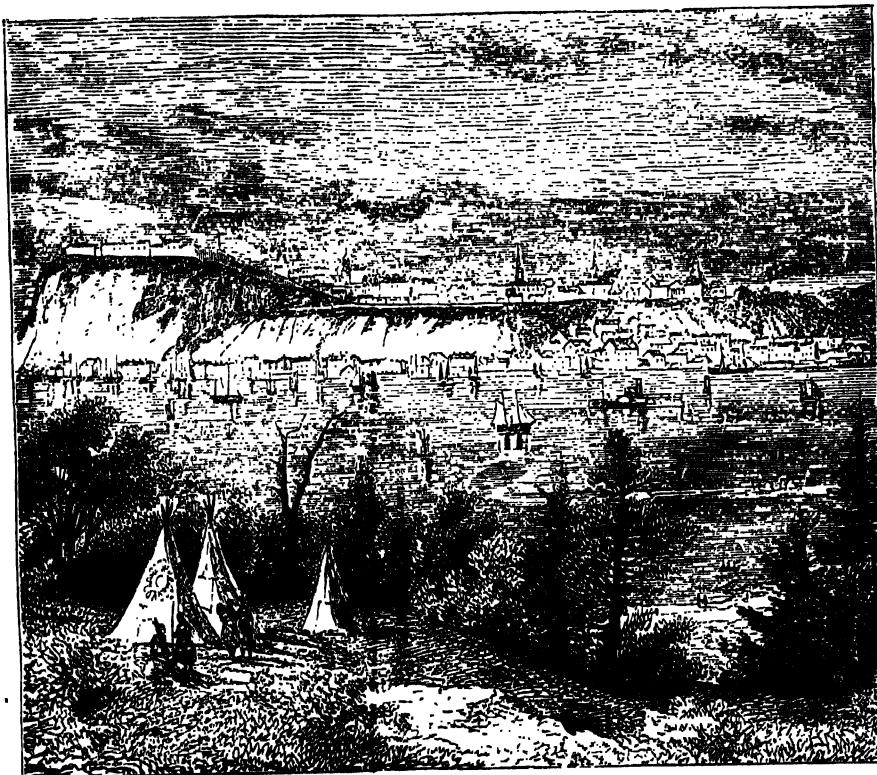
The British had been in America since Ralegh founded the State of Virginia; and we have seen how the Pilgrim Fathers left England in the reign of James the First and founded New England.

The French were in that part of America which is now called Canada, and they wished to keep the British from trading with the Indians who lived there. This was the cause of the war.

General Wolfe was sent to take Quebec, the French capital of Canada. This was a hard thing to do, as Quebec is a strong town, built on high rocks, at the foot of which is the river St. Lawrence.

By night Wolfe led his men up the side of the rock, and got near to the town before the French were aware. A battle was fought, in which Wolfe was killed; but the French were defeated and Quebec taken.

The British had been in India since the time of Queen Elizabeth. They had gone there to trade, and a company had



QUEBEC.

been formed for this purpose. The French also went to India to trade, and they wished to drive the British out, and get the whole of India to themselves.

At first the French had some success; when a young man named Robert Clive, who had gone out as a clerk, took the command of the British. At once a change took place, and he defeated the French.

The Nabob, or ruler of Bengal, made an attack on the

British in 1756, and took Calcutta, where he locked up one hundred and forty-six prisoners in a small room called the Black Hole. Before morning they were nearly all dead for want of air.

Clive went to punish the Bengal ruler for this cruelty. With a small army of about three thousand men he defeated an Indian army of sixty thousand at the Battle of Plassey. This victory not only gained for Britain the large province of Bengal, but it made us masters of India.

While our soldiers were fighting abroad, William Pitt was keeping things right at home. He was a member of Parliament; and when things seemed to be going wrong he took the management of the war into his own hands, and did much to make it a success. He was afterwards made Earl of Chatham.

George the Second died suddenly when he was seventy-six years of age. He was a good King. His homely manners pleased the people. His eldest son, Frederick, Prince of Wales, had died some years before, leaving nine children, the eldest of whom became George the Third.

## GEORGE III.

1760 to 1820 : 60 years.

GEORGE THE THIRD was the grandson of George the Second. He was twenty-two years of age when he became King. The two Georges who had reigned before him had been brought up in Germany. The young King was born in England, and called himself an Englishman.

At this time Great Britain was the leading nation of the world. When the Seven Years' War ended, the whole of North America and the greater part of India were in British hands.

A quarrel now began between our colonies in America and the Government at home. An attempt was made to force the Americans to pay taxes on tea and other articles carried into the country. This they refused to do.

When several ships, containing taxed tea sent from England, arrived in Boston harbour, some of the people, dressed as Red Indians, went on board and threw it into the water. The Government sent out soldiers to force the Americans to pay taxes, and a war began which went on for nearly eight years.

The Americans raised an army to defend themselves. Their



GEORGE THE THIRD.

leader was George Washington. Then they declared themselves independent of Great Britain, and formed a union of thirteen states under the name of the United States of America.

In 1783 the war ended, and a treaty was made, in which Great Britain had to agree that the United States should be a separate country. Since then the colonists, or Americans, have governed themselves.

They have no king or queen at their head. Instead of a monarch, they choose one of their chief men, who is called the President, to be at the head of the Government. The first President was George Washington.

At this time France was in a very troubled state. The French kings had ruled badly for some time, and the taxes laid on the people were more than they could pay. At length they rose against their rulers. They would no longer obey the laws. They did just as they liked ; and Paris, the chief city of France, was a scene of disorder and bloodshed.

The King and the Queen, with many of the chief nobles, were put to death. This caused some of the other kings of Europe to join together and declare war against France.

At this time there was at the head of the French army a wonderful soldier, named Napoleon Bonaparte, who gained so many victories that he was made Emperor of France.

The cruel deeds done in France had set the British people against that country. The cry was in favour of war, which,



SCENE AT THE BATTLE OF THE NILE.

besides Great Britain, was carried on by Austria and Russia. The British were more successful at sea.

At the Battle of the Nile, in 1798, Lord Nelson, the greatest sailor Britain has ever had, defeated the French fleet. Nelson was wounded during the battle, and when he was carried below he told the doctor not to leave the others for him—he would take his turn with the rest.

Seven years afterwards, at the Battle of Trafalgar, Lord Nelson fought his last battle and won his greatest victory. He came up with the ships of France and Spain off Cape Trafalgar, and at once prepared for battle.

His last signal from the mast-head of his ship was, "England expects that every man this day will do his duty." While the battle was raging, Nelson was shot in the shoulder. He died two hours afterwards, saying, "Thank God, I have done my duty!"

Though the French had been defeated by sea and their ships destroyed, Napoleon continued the war on land, and won many victories. It was then that Arthur Wellesley, afterwards the Duke of Wellington, defeated the French, and destroyed the power of Napoleon.

The last and greatest battle was fought in 1815. Napoleon had been sent to the island of Elba in the previous year; but he had returned to France and got together a large army of the best soldiers in the country. Wellington, with an army of eighty thousand men, and Blücher, at the head of the Prussian army of one hundred and ten thousand men, went to meet the French.

A long and bloody battle was fought at Waterloo, near Brussels. The French were completely defeated, and Napoleon fled from the field. He afterwards gave himself up to the British, and was sent a prisoner to the island of St. Helena, where he died in 1821.

Ireland kept its own Parliament for nearly one hundred years longer than Scotland; but in this reign the Irish Parliament came to an end.

The Irish people had long found fault with British rule.



SCENE AT THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

They said they were not properly treated ; and they made up their minds to have a Government of their own.

There is no doubt that the Irish had good cause to complain about many things ; and so when their complaints were not listened to, they rose against the Government.

It was then thought best to do away with the Irish Parliament, and have but one Parliament for the British Islands.

This was done ; and the first Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland met in London in 1801. The Rose, the Thistle, and the Shamrock were thus united more

closely than ever; but the Union has not brought the same peace and happiness to Ireland as to Scotland.

Many of the unjust laws have been done away with; but the people are poor, and in many parts of the land they can hardly make a living.

Thousands on thousands have left their native land and made their homes in America, where there are land and work for millions more than that country contains. The people of Great Britain wish to see Ireland happy and contented, and it is to be hoped that this may ere long come to pass.

During the last ten years of George the Third's life he had not been able to rule, and had sometimes been out of his mind. He died when he was eighty-one years of age. He had been King for almost sixty years. No other King or Queen has been so long upon the throne. He was a good man, and did his best for the good of his people. His homely way of living won for him the name of "Farmer George."

## THE BATTLE OF THE BALTIC.

1801 A.D.

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THIS song celebrates Nelson's victory at Copenhagen in 1801, when he destroyed the Danish fleet, and detached Denmark from the Northern League (with Russia, Prussia, and Sweden) against England. It was on this occasion that, when Admiral Sir Hyde Parker signalled to Nelson to stop firing, Nelson put his telescope to his blind eye, and ordered his own signal for "close action" to be nailed to the mast,

Of Nelson and the North  
Sing the glorious day's renown,  
When to battle fierce came forth  
All the might of Denmark's crown,  
And her arms along the deep proudly shone ;  
By each gun the lighted brand  
In a bold determined hand,  
And the Prince of all the land  
Led them on.

Like leviathans afloat,  
Lay their bulwarks on the brine ;

While the sign of battle flew  
On the lofty British line ;  
It was ten of April morn by the chime :  
As they drifted on their path,  
There was silence deep as death ;  
And the boldest held his breath  
For a time.

• But the might of England flushed  
To anticipate the scene ;  
And her van the fleeter rushed  
O'er the deadly space between.  
“Hearts of oak !” our captains cried, when each gun  
From its adamantine lips  
Spread a death-shade round the ships,  
Like the hurricane eclipse  
Of the sun !

Again ! again ! again !  
And the havoc did not slack,  
Till a feeble cheer the Dane  
To our cheering sent us back.

Their shots along the deep slowly boom ;—  
Then cease—and all is wail,  
As they strike the shattered sail ;  
Or, in conflagration pale,  
Light the gloom !

Out spoke the victor then,  
As he hailed them o'er the wave :

“ Ye are brothers ! ye are men !  
And we conquer but to save !  
So peace, instead of death, let us bring :—  
But yield, proud foe, thy fleet,  
With the crews, at England’s feet,  
And make submission meet  
To our King.”

Then Denmark blessed our Chief,  
That he gave her wounds repose ;  
And the sounds of joy and grief  
From her people wildly rose,  
As Death withdrew his shades from the day :  
While the sun looked smiling bright  
O’er a wide and woful sight,  
Where the fires of funeral light  
Died away !

Now joy, Old England, raise !  
For the tidings of thy might,  
By the festal cities’ blaze,  
While the wine-cup shines in light ;—  
And yet, amidst that joy and uproar,  
Let us think of them that sleep,  
Full many a fathom deep,  
By thy wild and stormy steep,  
Elsinore !

THOMAS CAMPBELL.

## THE EVE OF WATERLOO.

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ON the night of June 15, 1815, a great ball was given by the Duchess of Richmond at Brussels, and was attended by many of the officers of the allied armies. During the evening news arrived that Napoleon had crossed the frontier, and was marching on Brussels. The officers were privately summoned from the ball-room, and the army marched before day-break. Engagements at Quatre-Bras and Ligny were fought next day. Waterloo was not fought till the 18th. In this extract (taken from *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*) Lord Byron describes the breaking up of the ball, and the results of the battle.

There was a sound of revelry by night,  
And Belgium's capital had gathered then  
Her beauty and her chivalry ; and bright  
The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men :  
A thousand hearts beat happily ; and when  
Music arose with its voluptuous swell,  
Soft eyes looked love to eyes which spake again,  
And all went merry as a marriage bell ;—  
But hush ! hark ! a deep sound strikes like a rising knell.

Did ye not hear it?—No; 'twas but the wind,  
Or the car rattling o'er the stony street;  
On with the dance! let joy be unconfined!  
No sleep till morn, when youth and pleasure meet  
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet:—  
But hark!—that heavy sound breaks in once more,  
As if the clouds its echo would repeat;  
And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before!  
Arm! arm! it is—it is—the cannon's opening roar!.....

Ah! then and there were hurrying to and fro,  
And gathering tears, and tremblings of distress,  
And cheeks all pale, which but an hour ago  
Blushed at the praise of their own loveliness;  
And there were sudden partings, such as press  
The life from out young hearts, and choking sighs  
Which ne'er might be repeated;—who could guess  
If ever more should meet those mutual eyes,  
Since upon night so sweet such awful morn could rise?

And there was mounting in hot haste: the steed,  
The mustering squadron, and the clattering car  
Went pouring forward with impetuous speed,  
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war;  
And the deep thunder, peal on peal afar;  
And near, the beat of the alarming drum  
Roused up the soldier ere the morning star;  
While thronged the citizens with terror dumb, [come!]  
Or whispering, with white lips—“The foe! they come! they

And wild and high the “Camerons’ gathering” rose,  
The war-note of Lochiel, which Albyn’s hills  
Have heard—and heard too have her Saxon foes :  
How in the noon of night that pibroch thrills,  
Savage and shrill ! But with the breath which fills  
Their mountain-pipe, so fill the mountaineers  
With the fierce native daring which instils  
The stirring memory of a thousand years,  
And Evan’s, Donald’s fame, rings in each clansman’s ears !.

Last noon beheld them full of lusty life ;  
Last eve in beauty’s circle proudly gay ;  
The midnight brought the signal-sound of strife ;  
The morn the marshalling in arms ; the day  
Battle’s magnificently stern array !  
The thunder-clouds close o’er it, which when rent,  
The Earth is covered thick with other clay,  
Which her own clay shall cover—heaped and pent,  
Rider and horse, friend, foe, in one red burial blent !

LORD BYRON.

## GEORGE IV.

1820 to 1830 : 10 years.

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GEORGE THE FOURTH was the eldest son of George the Third. During his father's illness he had ruled in the King's name as Prince Regent.

Ireland was at this time in a very bad state. The Roman Catholics complained that they had not the same freedom as the Protestants. There was some truth in this; for though Ireland sent members to the British House of Commons, no Roman Catholic was allowed to become a member.

Daniel O'Connell put himself at the head of the Irish people, and spoke out for all being treated alike. He was chosen as one of the Irish members of Parliament; but when he went to the House of Commons he was not allowed to take his place. This caused such a stir in all parts of the country that at last the law was changed, and Roman Catholics were put on the same footing as Protestants.

During this reign George Stephenson was busy improving the steam-engine and laying railways. As a lad, he had helped his father to mind the engine at a coal mine until he was old enough to do the work by himself.

From learning how to mend engines, he was at length able to make them. The engines he had to do with at first were standing engines, used chiefly to lift the coal out of the pits and to pump up the water that collected in the mines.

Then he saw a locomotive or engine that moved on wheels. It was a rough piece of work ; but it gave George the idea that afterwards made his name famous. "I can make a better 'travelling engine' than that," he said.

Years passed away before he could persuade people to give him the help he needed ; but at last the great work was done. He laid a railway and built an engine to run on it.

His engine, the *Rocket*, won the prize of five hundred pounds offered for the best engine to run on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. It ran along the line at the rate of from twenty-five to thirty miles an hour.

George the Fourth reigned only ten years, and died at the age of sixty-eight. He was not a good man, and of very little use as a King. It has been said of him that he was "a bad son, a bad husband, a bad subject, a bad monarch, and a bad friend." He left no children to succeed him.



GEORGE THE FOURTH.

## WILLIAM IV.

1830 to 1837: 7 years.

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WILLIAM THE FOURTH was the third son of George the Third, and brother of George the Fourth. He was sixty-five years old when he became King.

The first passenger railway, which Stephenson had built between Manchester and Liverpool, was opened in 1830. After that railways began to be made in all parts of the country.

A change in the law was now made so that more of the people could take a part in choosing members of Parliament. Up to this time the choosing of members had been in the hands of those who were well-off; but by the new law a great many more were allowed to have votes.

The grandest thing done in this reign was the setting free of all the slaves in lands belonging to Great Britain. Parliament agreed to pay the slave-owners twenty million pounds that the slaves might go free. Eight hundred thousand slaves became free men, though they were bound to work for their masters as hired servants for a few years.

William Wilberforce had been working for forty-six years trying to persuade the people of this country to put down



WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

slavery. He was lying on his death-bed when he received the news that his work was done, and the slaves were free. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Up to this time people had travelled in stage-coaches, at the rate of eight or ten miles an hour. Goods were conveyed in waggons drawn by horses over tram-roads, or in boats on the canals. Now a greater and quicker moving power was needed. To meet this want, travelling engines or locomotives were built to run over iron roads or railway lines.

George Stephenson built the first railway in England, from Stockton to Darlington, in 1825; but the trains on it ran at the rate of only five or six miles an hour. He then made a railway from Liverpool to Manchester, and built engines that were able to run at the rate of thirty miles an hour.

The line was opened with a procession of trains in the presence of the Duke of Wellington, and of a great gathering of people, September 15, 1830. This was the beginning of the great railway system now spread all over the country. In 1838 the Atlantic was crossed by a steamer for the first time.

The King died at the age of seventy-two. He is called the Sailor King, because when a young man he had been for some time a sailor. He was warm-hearted, and simple in manners, and his people loved and trusted him.

## QUEEN VICTORIA.—I.

1837.



QUEEN VICTORIA is the daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, the brother of William the Fourth and the fourth son of George the Third. Her uncle left no children, and she became Queen when eighteen years of age. Three years after she ascended the throne she married her cousin Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. He was called the Prince Consort. He died in 1861.

The Queen's family consisted of four sons, Albert-Edward (Prince of Wales), Alfred (Duke of Edinburgh), Arthur (Duke of Connaught), and Leopold (Duke of Albany); and five daughters, Victoria, Alice, Helena, Louise, and Beatrice. Two of their children are dead—the Princess Alice in 1878, and the Duke of Albany in 1884.

About the time of the Battle of Waterloo (1815) a tax had been put upon all corn which came into the country from abroad. Though this tax had been reduced some years afterwards, it had not been removed, and it kept back large supplies of corn which would otherwise have been sent into the country. This made bread dear, and many people were starving.



PRINCE CONSORT.

Richard Cobden and John Bright saw that the poorer classes would not be able to get enough food till the tax was taken off. They therefore wrote and spoke against it in all parts of the country. In 1845 the crop of potatoes, on which the people of Ireland mostly lived, failed, and many of them died of want.

This roused a strong feeling against everything that made food dear or kept corn from coming into the country. In 1846, Sir Robert Peel was able to carry a law doing away with the tax and allowing free trade in corn.

When Victoria became Queen, the postage of a letter from Edinburgh to London cost one shilling and a penny. In 1839 Rowland Hill drew up a plan by which letters could be sent



QUEEN VICTORIA.

anywhere within the British Isles for one penny. A post-card or a newspaper can now be sent for a halfpenny.

Prince Albert, the Queen's husband, thought that it would lead to greater friendship between the people of different countries if the best kinds of work which all of them could do were brought together and shown side by side. For this purpose a large building of glass and iron, called the Crystal Palace,



THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

was put up in Hyde Park, London. It was called the Great Exhibition, and was visited by large numbers of people from all parts of the country and from other lands.

In 1870 an Education Act was passed for England, and another for Scotland in 1872. By these Acts school boards were set up in all parts of the land, which not only provided schools, but also had power to make every child above a certain age attend them.

Queen Victoria began to reign in 1837. In 1887 she had

been fifty years on the British throne. Only two of our sovereigns have reigned longer than this—Henry the Third, who was King for fifty-six years, and George the Third, who was King for sixty years.

The year 1887, the Queen's Jubilee, or fiftieth year, was a time of great rejoicing both at home and in all parts of the empire. A thanksgiving service took place in Westminster Abbey, at which the Queen and the royal family were present. Along with them there were kings and princes from other countries, and persons of high rank came from all parts of the British Empire to join in thanking God for the blessings which the British people have enjoyed during the reign of Victoria.

### VICTORIA'S TEARS.

ON the death of her uncle, William the Fourth, in 1837, Victoria was proclaimed Queen, with the greatest joy in all parts of the country. The ceremony of the proclamation took place with the usual pomp in the court-yard of St. James's Palace. As the trumpets sounded, and the guns boomed, and the assembled thousands cheered, the young Queen turned to her mother, threw her arms around her neck, and wept like a child.

“O maiden ! heir of Kings !  
A king has left his place ;

The majesty of death has swept  
All other from his face :  
And thou upon thy mother's breast  
No longer lean adown,  
But take the glory for the rest,  
And rule the land that loves thee best !”

The maiden wept—

She wept to wear a crown !

They decked her courtly halls ;  
They reined her hundred steeds ;  
They shouted at her palace gate,  
“ A noble Queen succeeds !”

Her name has stirred the mountain's sleep,  
Her praise has filled the town ;  
And mourners, God had stricken deep,  
Looked hearkening up and did not weep.

Alone she wept,  
Who wept to wear a crown !

She saw no purples shine,  
For tears had dimmed her eyes ;  
She only knew her childhood's flowers  
Were happier pageantries !

And while the heralds played their part,  
Those million shouts to drown,  
“ God save the Queen !” from hill to mart,  
She heard through all her beating heart,

And turned, and wept—

She wept to wear a crown !

God save thee, weeping Queen !  
Thou shalt be well beloved !  
The tyrant's sceptre cannot move  
As those pure tears have moved !  
The nature in thine eyes we see  
That tyrants cannot own—  
The love that guardeth liberties :  
Strange blessing on the nation lies,  
Whose Sovereign wept—  
Yea, wept to wear a crown !

God bless thee, weeping Queen,  
With blessing more divine !  
And fill with happier love than Earth's  
That tender heart of thine !  
That when the thrones of Earth shall be  
As low as graves brought down,  
A pierced hand may give to thee  
The crown which angels shout to see !—  
Thou wilt not weep  
To wear that heavenly crown.

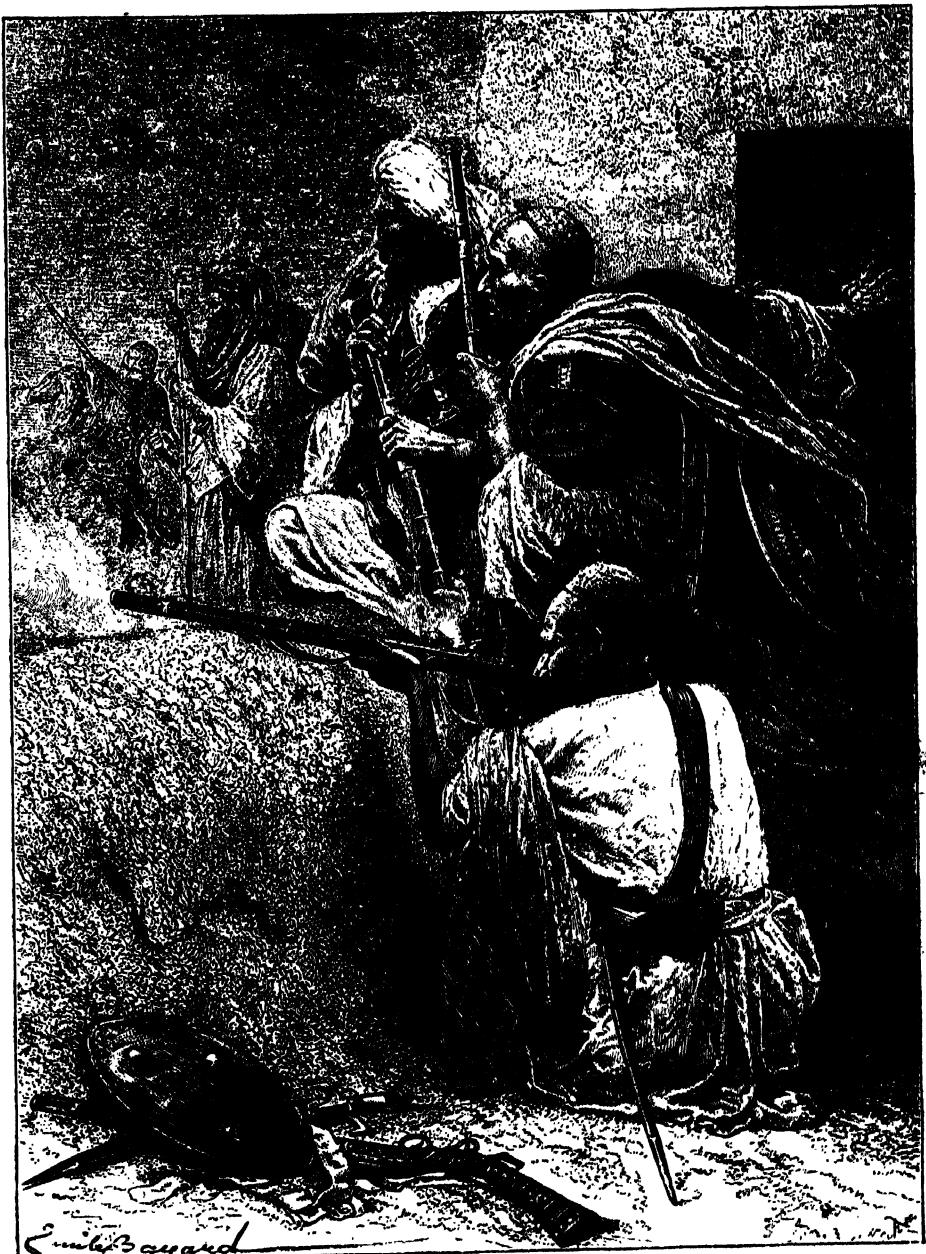
ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

## QUEEN VICTORIA.—II.

AFGHANISTAN lies between India and the lands which the Russians hold in Asia. To keep the Russians as far from India as possible, it has always been our wish to be friends with the rulers of Afghanistan. Sometimes we have sent soldiers to help a friendly ruler who was attacked by one who was not friendly to the British.

A few years ago the ruler of Afghanistan was more friendly to Russia than to Great Britain. Therefore a quarrel arose, and an army was sent to put matters right. The capital, Cabul, was taken; but after peace had been made the chief British officer was murdered, and General Roberts went with an army to punish the murderers. The war ended in 1881.

Though India had been made a part of the British Empire, there were still some parts that had not been fully conquered. Our soldiers had occupied the country of Sindh, near the mouth of the river Indus, during the Afghan War, and the Ameer or ruler tried to drive them out. He was defeated by Sir Charles Napier, and Sindh came under British rule. The country farther up the river, called the Punjab, also came under our rule in 1849.



Emile Saillard

AFGHAN SOLDIERS FIGHTING.

The greater part of India was at last in the hands of the British, and many of the soldiers in the army were sepoy or native soldiers. The people of India are divided into classes or castes, each of which has its own rules to guide its members in their manner of life. There are some things they will not even touch, and among these is cow's flesh.

A story arose that the cartridges, or little packets of powder and bullets for loading their rifles, were rubbed with cow's fat. Some of the sepoy refused to touch the cartridges, and were punished. Their comrades took their side, and soon there was a great rising throughout the country.

At Meerut, near Delhi, the rebels killed several Europeans. They then seized Delhi, which was besieged and taken in September by the British under Sir John Lawrence. At Cawnpore a large number of men, women, and children were put to death by the orders of a cruel leader called Nana Sahib.

In Lucknow the sepoy had surrounded the house and grounds of the British governor of the town. Colonel Havelock with a small army broke through the bands of rebels and entered Lucknow in triumph. Finding that he could not remove the women and children in the face of the enemy, he remained with them till a larger army arrived under Sir Colin Campbell, afterwards Lord Clyde. Then all were taken to a place of safety; but Havelock, overcome by the hard work that he had done, died shortly afterwards.

The mutiny came to an end in 1858, and the government of



THE MEMORIAL AT CAWNPORE.

India was taken out of the hands of the East India Company. Since then it has been carried on by a governor or Viceroy in the name of the Queen. In 1876 Queen Victoria was declared to be "Empress of India."

## QUEEN VICTORIA.—III.

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RUSSIA and Turkey quarrelled about the treatment of the pilgrims to Jerusalem. The Russians invaded Turkey, and the British and the French took the side of the Turks. They both sent an army to the Crimea, a peninsula in the Black Sea, at the south of Russia.

In 1854 several great battles were fought, in all of which the Russians were beaten. The most famous were the Battle of the Alma, the Battle of Balaklava, and the Battle of Inkermann. The first great battle was fought in September on the banks of the river Alma, where the Russians were defeated with great loss.

The second great battle was fought in October at Balaklava, a sea-port on the Black Sea. Here the Russians were again defeated, and both sides lost many men. It was in this battle that Sir Colin Campbell, at the head of the 93rd Highlanders, kept back the Russian cavalry with “a thin red streak topped with a line of steel.”

At the close of the battle, a regiment of horse-soldiers, called the Light Brigade, by some blunder received an order to charge the whole Russian army. Of six hundred and seventy



BALAKLAVA.

men who went out, only one hundred and ninety returned. Right down the slope they rode in the face of the guns. They reached the battery, cut down many of the gunners, and then "all that was left of them" rode back. Lord Tennyson describes this famous charge in his poem called *The Charge of the Light Brigade*.



"SABRING THE GUNNERS THERE."

' Flashed all their sabres bare,  
Flashed as they turned in air,  
Sabring the gunners there,  
Charging an army, while  
All the world wondered :  
Plunged in the battery smoke,  
Right through the line they broke ;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reeled from the sabre stroke,  
Shattered and sundered.  
Then they rode back, but not—  
Not the Six Hundred.

When can their glory fade ?  
Oh ! the wild charge they made !  
    All the world wondered.  
Honour the charge they made !  
Honour the Light Brigade,  
    Noble Six Hundred !”

On the 5th of November the third great battle was fought at Inkermann, near Sebastopol. Here eight thousand British soldiers held out against nearly sixty thousand Russians till the French came to their aid, and again the Russians suffered defeat.

A number of nurses went out from England to nurse the sick and wounded soldiers. At their head was Miss Florence Nightingale, who cared for the wounded and the dying like an angel of mercy.

In the Crimea the Russians had a great stronghold called Sebastopol, which they held for nearly a year in spite of all the attempts of the British and French to take it. Strong as this fortress was, it was taken at last in September 1855. The war was brought to an end by the Treaty of Paris in 1856.

## INKERMANN.

SEBASTOPOL lay shrouded  
In thick November gloom,  
And through the midnight silence  
The guns had ceased to boom.  
The sentinel outworn  
In watching for the morn,  
From Balaklava's heights  
Beheld the Russian lights  
In the close-beleaguered fortress far adown ;  
And heard a sound of bells,  
Wafted upwards through the dells,  
And a roar of mingling voices and of anthems from the  
town.

Stealthily and darkly,  
'Mid the rain and sleet,  
No trumpet-call resounding,  
Nor drum's tempestuous beat,  
But shadow-like and slow,  
Came the legions of the foe,  
Moving dimly up the steep  
Where the British camp asleep

Lay unconscious of the danger lurking near ;  
And the soldier, breathing hard,  
On the cold and sodden sward,  
Dreamed of victory and glory, or of home and England dear.

Hark ! heard ye not a rumbling  
On the misty morning air,  
Like the rush of rising tempests  
When they shake the forest bare ?  
The outposts on the hill  
Hear it close, and closer still.  
'Tis the tramp of iron heels,  
'Tis the crash of cannon wheels,  
And "To arms!"—"To arms!"—"To arms!" is the cry.

"Tis the Russians on our flank !  
Up and arm, each British rank !  
And meet them, gallant guardsmen, to conquer or to die."

Then rose the loud alarum  
With a hurricane of sound,  
And from short, uneasy slumber  
Sprang each hero from the ground ;  
Sprang each horseman to his steed,  
Ready saddled for his need ;  
Sprang each soldier to his place,  
With a stern, determined face ;  
While the rousing drum and bugle echoed far,  
And the crack of rifles rung,  
And the cannon found a tongue,  
As down upon them bursting came the avalanche of war !

Through the cold and foggy darkness  
Sped the rocket's fiery breath,  
And the light of rapid volleys,  
In a haze of living death ;  
But each British heart that day  
Throbbed impetuous for the fray,  
And our hosts undaunted stood,  
• Beating back the raging flood  
That came pouring from the valley like a sea,  
Casting havoc on the shore,  
With a dull and sullen roar—  
The thunder-cloud above it, and the lightning flashing free.

On darkness grew the daylight,  
'Mid the loud, incessant peal ;  
On the daylight followed noontide,  
As they struggled steel to steel.  
O ye gallant souls and true !  
O ye great immortal few !  
On your banner bright unfurled  
Shone the freedom of the world ;  
In your keeping lay the safety of the lands,  
Lay the splendour of our name,  
Lay our glory and our fame,  
And ye held and raised them all in your dauntless hearts  
and hands !

For a moment, and one only,  
Seemed the Russians to prevail.

O ye brave eight thousand heroes !  
Ye shall conquer—they shall fail.  
They can face you—if they must ;  
But they fly your bayonet-thrust.  
And hark ! the ringing cheer  
That proclaims the French are near,  
And is heard above the raging battle din,  
Giving courage to the brave,  
Striking terror to the slave—  
A signal and an omen of the victory to win.

Break forth, thou storm of battle,  
With a new and wild uproar !  
Beam out, thou flag of Britain,  
With thy sister tricolour !  
For, fighting side by side,  
One in spirit, heart allied,  
In the cause of truth combined,  
For the freedom of mankind,  
France and England show the world what may be done ;  
And their star of glory burns,  
And the tide of battle turns,  
And the beaten Russians fly, and the victory is won.

Thus fourteen thousand freemen,  
Invincible in right,  
Defeated seventy thousand  
In fierce, unequal fight.

Thus Thermopylæ of old,  
And its men of Titan mould,  
Were surpassed, at duty's call,  
By the Briton and the Gaul,—

(May the splendour of their friendship never wane !)

By the men who fighting fell  
With Cathcart and Lourmel,  
Or lived with placid Raglan, avengers of the slain.

And as long as France and England  
Shall give birth to manlike men,  
Their deeds shall be remembered  
Should the battle burst again ;  
And to actions as sublime  
Shall inspire each future time.  
And when war's alarms shall cease,  
And the nations live in peace,  
Safe from tyranny, its murder and its ban,  
Let us tell with generous pride  
How our heroes fought and died,  
And saved a threatened world, on the heights of Inkermann.

CHARLES MACKAY.



KING THEODORE OF ABYSSINIA.

## QUEEN VICTORIA.—IV.

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ON the east coast of Africa, on the shores of the Red Sea, there is a country called Abyssinia. Theodore, King of Abyssinia, refused to give up some British people that he had

put into prison. Sir Robert Napier was sent in 1868 with an army to set them free. He took the fortress of Magdala, and when the soldiers entered it, found that the King had shot himself.

A tribe on the west coast of Africa, called the Ashantees, had given so much trouble to British merchants and other traders in their neighbourhood, that Sir Garnet Wolseley was sent with a small army to punish them. When he had taken and burned Coomassie, their chief town, their King was glad to make peace.

Cetewayo, the King of the Zulus in South Africa, gathered a large army near the British colony of Natal. Because he refused to send his soldiers back to their homes a British army was sent against him. At first the Zulus were too strong for our troops; but in the end they were defeated, and their King was taken prisoner, and sent to Cape Town. After a visit to England, the Zulu King was restored to his throne in 1883. Another chief defeated him in 1884, and Cetewayo died the same year. Since then Zululand has been added to our British Empire. In this war the son of Napoleon the Third, who had been Emperor of the French, was killed by the Zulus.

In Cape Colony, in the south of Africa, there were many Dutchmen who moved further north when the British took possession of that colony. They called the place where they settled Transvaal, because it was beyond or across the river Vaal. This also was added to the British Empire in 1877,

and the Dutch rose in revolt and defeated our soldiers more than once. After this they were allowed to rule themselves.

During recent years the affairs of Egypt have given Great Britain a good deal of trouble. The Suez Canal is cut through the isthmus of Suez, which is a part of the land of Egypt. Because so many British ships pass through this canal to India and other places, it is desirable that Egypt should be friendly with Great Britain. In 1882 a leader named Arabi Pasha overturned the Egyptian government, but was defeated by General Wolseley at Tel-el-Kebir.

Another chief called the Mahdi raised a revolt in the Soudan on the south of Egypt. Fighting took place there, and also near the Red Sea with Osman Digna. General Gordon, who had at one time been Governor of Khartoum, on the Nile, capital of the Soudan, was sent there again to try to make peace. He failed to do so, and was besieged by the Mahdi. The British Government sent a force up the Nile to help him, but it was too late. Gordon had been killed two days before it arrived, in January 1885.

The union of Ireland with Great Britain in 1801 had not brought that content and peace to Ireland which had been expected.

An Irish Member of Parliament, named Daniel O'Connell, stirred up the people of Ireland to ask for the Repeal of the Union—that is, that Ireland should rule itself, and not be a part of the United Kingdom. He held meetings in different

parts of the country. These meetings were often so large that the police had to keep order; and O'Connell was sent to prison for two years. He died at Genoa in 1847.

From time to time attempts had been made to bring about a separation. Unable to do this, the Irish asked Parliament to grant them Home Rule—that is, power to manage their own affairs in Dublin.

In 1869 Parliament passed an Act putting Protestants and Roman Catholics in Ireland on an equal footing. In 1870, and again in 1881, laws were passed which placed Irish farmers in a better position. They could not after this be turned out of their farms without being paid for what they had done to make the land of greater value.

Though great changes had been made in the land laws, a Land League was formed, and farmers were told to pay no rent, and shopkeepers were forbidden to supply those who did so with anything they needed. Evil arose out of the strife between landlords and tenants: property was destroyed, and even life was taken. Ireland is still in a very restless state, and it is not very clear what can be done to put things right.

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

(Born May 24, 1819.)

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QUEEN VICTORIA has occupied the throne of Great Britain for fifty-two years,—a term exceeded only by two reigns in the long line of English Sovereigns.

Her sway is owned by two hundred and forty-five millions of people, scattered over both hemispheres and all quarters of the globe.

As her birthday comes round on the 24th of May, the prayer, "God save the Queen," uttered by English-speaking lips, greets the sunrise every hour of the twenty-four, until the circuit of the world has been made.

As the happy day breaks on the British Isles, the centre of the vast empire, the Queen receives the greetings of her family, her court, and her people. Ere the guns of the Tower at noon have ceased to thunder forth the congratulations of the nation, all Canada is awake, and the West Indies are in full activity, and three or four millions more, who are proud to call themselves British subjects, take up the song, "God save the Queen."

Its echoes have not died out in Victoria, the most westerly of VICTORIA's capitals, ere our brothers and sisters in New Zealand take up the loyal cry. One hour later the dawn has reached Australia and Tasmania, and there are thousands of loyal hearts there ready to respond to the prayer, "God save our Queen."

Next it is taken up by the busy merchants of Hong-Kong and Singapore, and is passed on by them to the millions of India who own Victoria as Sovereign of the East. Before the day is an hour old at Bombay, it has dawned on Mauritius. Next it awakens the watchmen of Aden. Almost at the same time it flushes the mountains of Natal and Cape Colony, where there are thousands of Englishmen eager to shout, "God save our Queen!" Soon Malta is reached, and one hour later the new dawn tells the sentinels at Windsor that the joyous benediction has travelled with the sun-light from meridian to meridian round the globe.

Long may our noble National Anthem be sung, as year by year the birthday of the Queen returns.

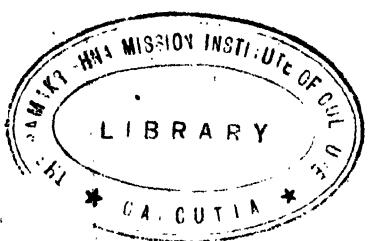
God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
    God save our Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,—  
    God save the Queen !

Thy choicest gifts in store  
On her be pleased to pour,—

Long may she reign !  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice,—  
“ God save the Queen ! ”

In distant lands and seas,  
Where, floating in the breeze,  
Our flag is seen ;  
Where'er the morning sun  
Shines on our empire won,  
From loyal hearts shall come,—  
“ God save the Queen.”

THE END.













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